



Scouts Dishonored

“Perversion files” show locals helped cover up

Boy Scout Nicholas Reade, 17, from Reynoldsburg, Ohio, stands during the trooping of the colors in Lancaster, Ohio. An array of local authorities quietly shielded scoutmasters and others who allegedly molested children, according to a newly opened trove of confidential files compiled from 1959 to 1985.

NIGEL DUARA
Associated Press
PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) — An array of local authorities — police chiefs, prosecutors, pastors and town Boy

Scout leaders among them — quietly shielded scoutmasters and others who allegedly molested children, according to a newly opened trove of confidential

files compiled from 1959 to 1985. At the time, those authorities justified their actions as necessary to protect the good name and good

works of Scouting. But as detailed in 14,500 pages of secret “perversion files” released Thursday by order of the Oregon Supreme Court, their maneuvers pro-

(AP Photo/Charles Dharapak)
 tected suspected sexual predators while victims suffered in silence.

Continued on next page



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Colombian peace talks open with harsh rhetoric

VIVIAN SEQUERA

Associated Press

HURDAL, Norway (AP) —

Colombia's first peace talks in a decade were inaugurated Thursday a half world away with a demonstration of just how widely the two sides differ on how to end a vexing, nearly five-decade-old conflict.

The Oslo talks were brief, symbolic and largely perfunctory. Held at a secret venue,

they lasted seven hours and were followed by word that substantive talks will begin Nov. 15 in the Cuban capital of Havana. The next round will tackle "comprehensive agrarian development," though little else appears to have been agreed upon.

The government's lead negotiator, Humberto de la Calle, sought to set a businesslike, cordial tone in brief remarks at a joint news conference at a lakeside

hotel north of Oslo. He said the government seeks "mutual dignified treatment" in the talks and doesn't expect the sides to see eye-to-eye ideologically.

His opposite number from the Western Hemisphere's last remaining major insurgency, Ivan Marquez, said the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or FARC, had come to Oslo "with an olive branch."

Then he began railing against Colombia's "corrupt oligarchy," its alleged masters in Washington, "state-sponsored violence," the government's "deceptive and backward" land policies, and the "vampires" of transnational oil and mining that FARC says are ravaging the nation.

"We want to denounce the crime of capitalism and neo-liberalism," Marquez said during a 35-minute discourse that denounced

some companies and individuals by name, including a cousin of President Juan Manuel Santos and a relative of one of the government negotiators.



FARC negotiators Jesus Santrich (left), Ivan Marques and Ricardo Tellez pictured during a press conference at the Hurdalsjoen Hotel near Oslo in Norway Thursday Oct. 18, 2012. Representatives of the Colombian government delegation and the FARC delegation briefed media on the upcoming peace talks.

(AP Photo/ Audun Braastad / NTB scanpix)

Members of the government team, separated from the FARC negotiators at a long table by Norwe-

gian and Cuban diplomats who have acted as facilitators, looked bored and slightly annoyed, some crossing their arms, others propping up chins with

to overcome," said political scientist Vicente Torrijos at Bogota's Universidad del Rosario.

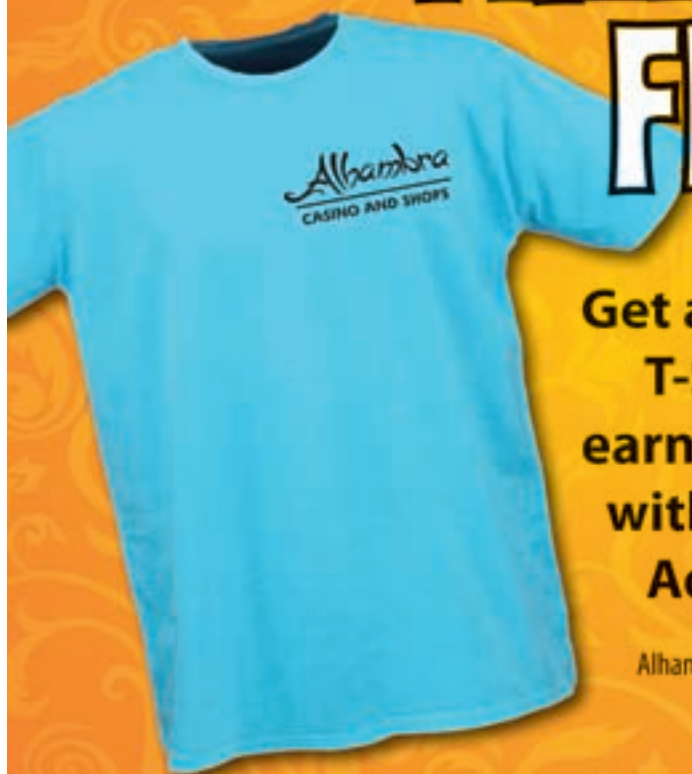
Colombia's business community is also hostile to the FARC. Its TV and radio stations cut away to commercials early in the FARC's separate news conference Thursday.

Land ownership issues are at the heart of Colombia's conflict, which is fueled by cocaine trafficking and aggravated by far-right militias that have colluded with a military widely questioned for human right abuses.

Colombia's most fertile land has been largely concentrated in the hands of cattle ranchers and drug traffickers.

Colombia's president has said he expects the talks to last months, not years, as did the failed 1999-2002 talks that were held in a Switzerland-sized safe haven. □

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“Perversion files” show locals helped cover up

Continued from front

The files document sex abuse allegations across the country, from a small town in the Adirondacks to downtown Los Angeles.

At a news conference Thursday, Portland attorney Kelly Clark blasted the Boy Scouts for their continuing legal battles to try to keep the full trove of files secret. “You do not keep secrets hidden about dangers to children,” said Clark, who in 2010 won a landmark lawsuit against the Boy Scouts on behalf of a plaintiff who was molested by an assistant scoutmaster in the 1980s.

The files were shown to a jury in a 2010 Oregon civil suit that the Scouts lost, and the Oregon Supreme Court ruled the files should be made public. After months of objections and redactions, the Scouts and Clark released them.

The Associated Press obtained copies of the files weeks ahead of Thursday’s release and conducted an extensive review of them, but agreed not to publish the stories until the files were released.

The new files are a window on a much larger collection of documents the Boy Scouts of America began collecting soon after their founding in 1910. The files, kept at Boy Scout headquarters in Texas, consist of memos from local and national Scout executives,

handwritten letters from victims and their parents and newspaper clippings about legal cases. The files contain details about proven molesters, but also unsubstantiated allegations. Many of the files released on Thursday have been written about before, but this is the first time the earliest ones have been put in the public domain.

The 1959-85 files show that on many occasions the files succeeded in keeping pedophiles out of Scouting leadership positions — the reason they were collected in the first place.

But the files document some troubling patterns. In many instances — more than a third, according to the Scouts’ own count — police weren’t told about the alleged abuse.

And there is little mention in the files of concern for the welfare of Scouts who were allegedly abused by their leaders. But there are numerous documents showing compassion for suspected abusers, who were often times sent to psychiatrists or pastors to get help. In 1972, a Pennsylvania Scouting executive wrote a memo recommending a case against a suspected abuser be dropped with the words: “If it don’t stink, don’t stir it.”

In numerous instances, alleged abusers are kicked out of Scouting but show up in jobs where they are once again in authority positions dealing with youths.



Portland attorney Paul Mones, right, with Kelly Clark, talks about some of the 14,500 pages of previously confidential documents created by the Boy Scouts of America concerning child sexual abuse within the organization, at a press conference to release the documents in Portland, Ore., Thursday, Oct. 18, 2012. The files are a window on a much larger collection of documents the Boy Scouts of America began collecting soon after their founding in 1910. The files, kept at Boy Scout headquarters in Texas, consist of memos from local and national Scout executives, handwritten letters from victims and their parents and newspaper clippings about legal cases.

(AP Photo/Greg Wahl-Stephens)

One of the most startling revelations to come from the files is the frequency with which attempts to protect Scouts from alleged molesters collapsed at the local level, at times in collusion with community leaders. On the afternoon of Aug. 10, 1965, a distraught Louisiana mother walked into the Ouachita Parish Sheriff’s Office. A 31-year-old scoutmaster, she told the chief criminal deputy, had raped one of her sons and molested two others. Six days later, the scoutmaster sat down in the same station and confessed. “I don’t know an explanation, why we done it or I done it or wanted to do it or anything else it just — an impulse I guess or something,” the man told a sheriff’s deputy. □



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Terror suspect's family says he asked to go study in U.S.

COLLEEN LONG

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Quazi Mohammad Rezwanul Ahsan Nafis was a terrible student in his native Bangladesh, and his middle-class parents say he persuaded them to send him off to study in the U.S. as a way of improving his job prospects.

At the Missouri college where he enrolled, one classmate said Nafis often remarked that true Muslims don't believe in violence — an image that seemed startlingly at odds with Nafis' arrest in an FBI sting this week on charges of trying to blow up the Federal

out for accomplices and eventually contacting a government informant, who then went to federal authorities.

They said he also selected his target, drove the van loaded with dummy explosives up to the door of the bank, and tried to set off the bomb from a hotel room using a cellphone he thought had been rigged as a detonator.

During the investigation, he and the informant corresponded via Facebook and other social media, talked on the phone and met in hotel rooms, according to a law enforcement official

of a plot when he arrived. While Nafis believed he had the blessing of al-Qaida and was acting on behalf of the terrorist group, he has no known ties, according to federal officials.

Nafis, who at the time of his arrest Wednesday was working as a busboy at a restaurant in Manhattan, was jailed without bail. His attorney has not commented on the case, but in other instances where undercover agents and sting operations were used, lawyers have argued entrapment.

Investigators would not say exactly how he initially contacted the government informant.

Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly, whose department had a role in the arrest as a member of a joint federal-state terrorism task force, said the entrapment argument rarely prevails.

"You have to be otherwise not disposed to do a crime," Kelly said. "And if it's your intent to do a crime, and somehow there are means made available, then generally speaking, the entrapment defense does not succeed."

Nafis' family in Dhaka, Bangladesh, denied he could have been involved — he was incapable of such actions and came to America to study, not to carry out an attack, his parents said. His father, a banker, said Nafis was so timid he couldn't venture out onto the roof alone.

"My son couldn't have done it," Quazi Ahsanullah said, weeping.

"He is very gentle and devoted to his studies," he said, pointing to Nafis' time studying at the private North South University in Dhaka.

Belal Ahmed, a spokesman for the university, said Nafis was a terrible student who was put on probation and threatened with expulsion if he didn't bring his grades up. Nafis eventually stopped coming to school, Ahmed said. □



Bangladeshi Quazi Ahsanullah displays a photograph of his son Quazi Mohammad Rezwanul Ahsan Nafis as he weeps in his home in the Jatrabari neighborhood in north Dhaka, Bangladesh, Thursday, Oct. 18, 2012. The FBI arrested 21-year-old Nafis on Wednesday after he tried to detonate a fake 1,000-pound (454-kilogram) car bomb, according to a criminal complaint. His family said Thursday that Nafis was incapable of such actions. (AP Photo/A.M. Ahad)

Reserve Bank in New York with what he thought was a 1,000-pound (450-kilogram) car bomb.

"I can't imagine being more shocked about somebody doing something like this," said Jim Dow, a 54-year-old Army veteran who rode home from class with Nafis twice a week. "I didn't just meet this kid a couple of times. We talked quite a bit, sir. And this doesn't seem to be in character."

Federal investigators, often accused by defense attorneys of entrapping and leading would-be terrorists along, said the 21-year-old Nafis made the first move over the summer, reaching

who was not authorized to speak publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity. Nafis spoke of his admiration for Osama bin Laden, talked of writing an article about his plot for an al-Qaida-affiliated magazine, and said he would be willing to be a martyr but preferred to go home to his family after carrying out the attack, authorities said. And he also talked about wanting to kill President Barack Obama and bomb the New York Stock Exchange, a law enforcement official said. Investigators said in court papers that he came to the U.S. bent on jihad and worked out the specifics



Edith Windsor, center, is interviewed at the offices of the New York Civil Liberties Union, in New York, Thursday, Oct. 18, 2012. A federal appeals court in Manhattan has become the second in the nation to strike down the Defense of Marriage Act as unconstitutional. The ruling came in a case brought by Windsor. She sued the government in November 2010 because she was told to pay \$363,053 in federal estate tax after her partner of 44 years died in 2009. Her attorney Roberta Kaplan is at right. (AP Photo/Richard Drew)

Court says US law defining marriage unconstitutional

LARRY NEUMEISTER

Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — Saying the gay population has "suffered a history of discrimination," an appeals court in New York ruled Thursday that a U.S. law defining marriage as between a man and a woman is unconstitutional. The national fight over gay marriage is expected to reach the country's top court soon.

The 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals found no reason the Defense of Marriage Act could be used to deny benefits to married gay couples. The law denies federal recognition of same-sex marriages and affirms the right of states to refuse to recognize such marriages.

The 2-1 decision came after a woman sued the government, saying the law required her to pay more than \$363,000 in federal estate tax after her partner of 44 years died.

In writing the majority opinion, Judge Dennis Jacobs said discrimination against gays should be scrutinized by the courts just as discrimination against women was scrutinized in the 1970s.

"The question is not whether homosexuals have achieved political successes over the years; they clearly have. The question is whether they have the strength to politically protect themselves from wrongful discrimination," said Jacobs, who was appointed to the bench in 1992 by President George H.W. Bush.

Judge Chester J. Straub dissented, saying that if the government was to change its understanding of marriage, "I believe it is for the American people to do so."

The Defense of Marriage Act was passed by bipartisan majorities in both houses of Congress and signed by President Bill Clinton after it appeared in 1993 that Hawaii might legalize gay marriage. Since then, many states have banned gay marriage but several have approved it, including Massachusetts and New York.

The government defended the federal law until President Barack Obama and Attorney General Eric Holder in early 2011 directed attorneys to stop doing so.

James Esseks, an attorney for the American Civil Liberties Union, called Thursday's ruling "a watershed moment in the legal movement for lesbian and gay rights."

"It's fabulous news for same-sex couples in New York and other states," he said. □



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Gunman kills 3, self in Florida salon shooting

KYLE HIGHTOWER

SUZETTE LABOY

Associated Press

CASSELBERRY, Florida (AP)

— A gunman opened fire at a Florida beauty salon Thursday, killing three women and wounding the manager, who had asked for a restraining order against him, police said. After the rampage, the gunman went to a friend's house and killed himself.

Authorities said the shooting was part of a domestic dispute, but did not elaborate. The gunman, identified by police as Bradford Baumet, was served with a domestic violence injunction Oct. 9 and scheduled to be in court Thursday for a hearing with the salon's manager, Marcia Santiago. Their relationship was not

immediately clear.

About two hours before the hearing, Baumet, 36, entered Las Dominicanas M & M Salon in Casselberry

and started shooting, police spokeswoman Sara Brady said. Two women hid inside a bathroom and one ran outside through a

back door. Santiago, 44, was in serious condition at a hospital. She was shot five times, according to her ex-husband, William Ayala, who spoke to her sister. Ayala said he had a daughter with Santiago and the girl lived with him.

"I heard he was violent and had a criminal record," he told The Associated Press. Records in Florida and Rhode Island show Baumet has been previously arrested for domestic assault, felony assault, stalking, burglary and drug possession.



Family and friends gather at the scene of the shooting at Las Dominicanas M&M Salon in Winter Park, Fla., Thursday, Oct. 18, 2012. A gunman opened fire in a central Florida beauty salon Thursday, killing three women and wounding a fourth before killing himself at a nearby home, police said. The shooting appeared to be part of a domestic dispute.

(AP Photo/Julie Fletcher)

Maker of film condemning Obama resigns over report

RACHEL ZOLL

AP Religion Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The conservative scholar behind a high-grossing film that condemns President Barack Obama resigned Thursday as head of a U.S. evangelical college following a report about his engagement to a woman while still legally married to his wife.

The board of The King's College announced school president Dinesh D'Souza was stepping down immediately.

D'Souza, director of the anti-Obama documentary "2016: Obama's America," has said he's done nothing

wrong. He could not be immediately reached for comment.

The resignation was announced two days after the evangelical magazine WORLD reported that D'Souza spoke at a Christian values event in South Carolina and brought along his fiancée. Organizers said they confronted D'Souza after concluding that he and his fiancée had shared a hotel room while attending the gathering. D'Souza said he did not share the room. In a brief interview Tuesday with The Associated Press, D'Souza said he and his wife, Dixie, have been "living in a

state of separation for two years."

D'Souza filed for divorce in California a few days after the South Carolina conference, according to court records.

D'Souza told the AP he had called off his engagement. The King's College, located in New York City, aims to shape young Christians as future leaders in all parts of society.

"After careful consultation with the board and with Dinesh, we have accepted his resignation to allow him to attend to his personal and family needs," the college's board said in its statement. □

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US Border Patrol use-of-force policy scrutinized

BRIAN SKOLOFF
Associated Press

PHOENIX (AP) — Government investigators are reviewing U.S. Border Patrol policies on use of lethal force amid a series of deadly shootings along the border with Mexico in recent years, including the killing last week of a teenager who agents said was throwing rocks at them from across a fence.

Since 2010, at least 18 people have been killed by Border Patrol agents, eight in instances where federal authorities said they were being attacked by rock throwers, a common occurrence along the Mexican border, said Vicki Gaubeca, director of the ACLU's Regional Center for Border Rights. The investigation by the Department of Homeland Security's Office of Inspector General involves a review of accusations of brutality and excessive force. The review was launched after 16 members of Congress expressed concern over the 2010 death of an unarmed Mexican migrant in San Diego. Arlen Morales,

a spokeswoman for the Inspector General's Office, declined to comment on details of the investigation but noted it could take up to a year to complete. U.S. Customs and Border Protection would not comment. In the 2010 shooting,

methamphetamine listed as contributing factors. The coroner's report, citing a San Diego police detective, said Hernandez was agitated and confrontational after he was detained by agents while crossing the border ille-

ment's civil rights division was presenting evidence to a grand jury in the case amid signs that prosecutors were considering criminal charges. The Justice Department has declined to comment, only noting the case remains under investigation. In the most recent case last week, Mexican authorities say a 16-year-old boy was killed by an agent who shot through a border fence in Nogales, Arizona. The Border Patrol acknowledged the agent was responding to rock-throwing and said "it appeared someone had been hit." Investigations are ongoing on both sides of the border.

A Mexican official with direct knowledge of the investigation told the AP the boy had been shot multiple times in the back. The person was not yet authorized to discuss details of the case and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Mexico's Foreign Relations Department issued a statement saying it "forcefully condemned" the shooting, calling such deaths "a serious bilateral problem."

It is extremely rare for U.S. border authorities to face criminal charges for deaths or injuries to migrants. In April, federal prosecutors said there was insufficient evidence to pursue charges against a Border Patrol agent in the 2010 shooting death of a 15-year-old Mexican in Texas.

In 2008, a case was dismissed against a Border Patrol agent facing murder charges after undecided juries led to two mistrials. Witnesses testified the agent shot a man without provocation after he crossed the border illegally near Naco, Arizona, but defense attorneys contended it was self-defense after the Mexican man tried to hit the agent with a rock.

The Border Patrol considers the use of deadly force against rock throwers generally acceptable, noting the projectiles can be deadly, but critics of the practice claim it's an unfair fight.

"It just seems like it's over the top to use lethal force in response to rock throwers," Gaubeca said. □



In this photo taken Thursday, Aug. 9, 2012, A U.S. Border Patrol vehicle keeps watch along the border fence in Nogales, Ariz. A U.S. Border Patrol agent opened fire on a group of people throwing rocks from across the Mexican border, killing a teenage boy and eliciting outrage from the Mexican government over the use of lethal force, authorities said Thursday. (AP Photo/Ross D. Franklin)

Anastasio Hernandez, 42, died after being shot with a stun gun by a Border Patrol agent at the San Ysidro port of entry. An autopsy found he died of a heart attack, with a heart condition and

gally and became violent when his handcuffs were removed.

Eugene Iredale, an attorney for the man's family, told The Associated Press in July the U.S. Justice Depart-

US court: Fort Hood suspect can be forcibly shaved

ANGELA K. BROWN
Associated Press

FORT WORTH, Texas (AP) — A U.S. Army appeals court ruled Thursday that the suspect in the Fort Hood shooting that killed 13 people can have his beard forcibly shaved off before his murder trial.

The U.S. Army Court of Criminal Appeals upheld the military trial judge's decision to order Maj. Nidal Hasan to appear in court clean shaven or be forcibly shaved, according to a release from Fort Hood. The opinion came on the heels of last week's hearing at Fort Belvoir in Virginia in which the court heard arguments from both sides.

Hasan, who did not attend the hearing, has said he grew a beard because his Muslim faith requires it, despite the Army's ban on beards. A few exceptions have been made for religious reasons.

The appeals court also ruled that Col. Gregory Gross, the trial judge, properly found that the federal Religious Freedom Restoration Act does not give Hasan the right to have a beard while in uniform during his trial. The court specifically upheld Gross' previous ruling that Hasan did not prove that his beard was an expression of a sincerely held religious belief. The appeals court said that even if Hasan did grow a beard for a sincere religious reason, compelling government interests justified Gross' order requiring Hasan to comply with Army grooming standards.

The appeals court also upheld six contempt of court findings against Hasan, starting about a month after he showed up in court in June with a beard. Gross fined him \$1,000 for each instance. Hasan's attorneys have said they will appeal the ruling to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces, which means Hasan's court-martial re-

mains on hold.

Hasan, 42, faces the death penalty if convicted in the 2009 attack that killed 13 and wounded more than two dozen others on the Texas Army post, about 125 miles (201 kilometers) southwest of Fort Worth.

The Army has specific guidelines on forced shaving. A team of five military police officers restrains the inmate "with the reasonable force necessary," and a medical professional is on hand in case of injuries.

The shaving must be done with electric clippers and must be videotaped, according to Army rules.

Hasan would not be the first military defendant forcibly shaved. The Army has done it to five inmates since 2005, including one person who was forcibly shaved twice, according to the Army's Office of the Chief of Staff. □

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Chechen students from an Islamic university wear Islamic veils, during an event, in downtown Grozny, the provincial capital of Chechnya, to mark a newly established holiday called 'The Day of Chechen Women'. President Vladimir Putin spoke out Thursday against the wearing of headscarves in Russian schools in his first public comment on a potentially explosive issue.

(AP Photo/Musa Sadulayev)

Putin opposes wearing headscarves at schools

VLADIMIR ISACHENKOV

Associated Press

MOSCOW (AP) — President Vladimir Putin spoke out Thursday against the wearing of headscarves in Russian schools in his first public comment on a potentially explosive issue. Putin's statement follows a recent incident in Russia's southern region of Stavropol during which a school principal forbade girls from Muslim families from wearing headscarves to class. Their parents protested and the principal said she was threatened.

Asked to comment on the issue, Putin clearly voiced his opposition to headscarves at schools, saying that Russia is a secular state and must create equal conditions for all its citizens.

At the same time, Putin sought to calm passions raised by the dispute, saying that authorities must show a due respect to followers of all religions.

"We have a secular state, and we must proceed from that," Putin said at a meeting with supporters.

Other countries also have faced debate over the issue. This month, police in Azerbaijan clashed with citizens protesting a ban on the wearing of headscarves in the mainly Muslim ex-Soviet nation's secondary schools.

In Europe, France and Belgium have banned the wearing of headscarves or face-covering Islamic veils in public, as have some towns in Spain and elsewhere.

Putin said Russia should learn from the decisions of such countries. "We must have a look at how such issues are solved by our neighbors in European countries, and all will become clear," he said.

An estimated 20 million of Russia's 143 million people are Muslims, and they make up the majority of the population in many regions, including the oil-rich province of Tatarstan and Bashkortostan, as well as Chechnya and neighboring provinces in the volatile North Caucasus. □

Syrian airstrikes kill at least 43

BEN HUBBARD

Associated Press

BEIRUT (AP) — Syrian warplanes hammered a strategic city captured by rebels, leaving behind scenes of carnage captured Thursday on amateur videos that showed a man holding up two child-sized legs not connected to a body and another carrying a dismembered arm.

Activists said airstrikes over the past two days on opposition targets across Syria's north have killed at least 43 people. The city of Maaret al-Numan, located strategically on a major north-south highway connecting Aleppo and Damascus, was captured by rebels last week and there has been heavy fighting around it ever since. Rebel brigades from the surrounding area have poured in to defend the town. Online videos have shown them firing mortars at regime troops, and they claimed to have shot down a government helicopter on Wednesday. Since it was captured a week ago, the city in northern Idlib province and its surroundings have been the focus of one of the heaviest air bombardments since President Bashar Assad's military first unleashed its air force against rebels over the summer.

Local activists in the city say warplanes are continuously overhead, and entire villages are largely deserted and peppered with destroyed homes.

The scenes from the city provide a window into the carnage being wrought by the Syrian military's increasing reliance on airstrikes to fight rebels waging a civil war to topple Assad. Rights groups say the airstrikes often hit civilian areas. And this week, U.S.-based Human Rights Watch accused

Syria of using cluster bombs, which pose grave dangers to civilians.

The regime contends that it is fighting terrorists backed by foreign powers who seek to destroy Syria and denies using cluster bombs.

The latest onslaught from the skies left residents frantically poring through mounds of rubble searching for survivors or bodies trapped underneath.

Airstrikes also hit three nearby villages on Wednesday, killing 15 people, Yassin said. Nine of those were in Kafar Nubul, while others died in the villages of Kafrouma and Hass.

Airstrikes late Wednesday and early Thursday hit at least five towns in northern Idlib and Aleppo provinces, both of which border Turkey.

The aftermath of one of the



In this citizen journalism image provided by Lens Young Homs, which has been authenticated based on its contents and other AP reporting, a destroyed house from Syrian government forces shelling, at Jouret al-Shiyah, in Homs province, Syria, Thursday Oct. 18, 2012. Syrian activists say a string of government airstrikes on rebel areas in the country's north has killed at least 20 people, leveled buildings and forced residents to dig through mounds of rubble in search of survivors.

(AP Photo/Lens Yong Homs)

Amateur videos purportedly filmed after an airstrike there on Thursday showed the men carrying around body parts and 18 white cloth bundles holding the remains of those killed. Activist claims and videos cannot be independently verified due to restrictions on reporting in Syria. But all videos corresponded to activists' reports and appeared to have been filmed where they said they were.

One strike hit a neighborhood near the rebel field hospital in Maaret al-Numan, activist Fadi Yassin said via Skype.

strikes was captured on video late Wednesday in the city of Aleppo. It struck a large mosque. While some men in the videos carry away bodies, others work to dig out a survivor whose legs are buried in debris.

An Aleppo-based activist who gave his name as Abu Raed said men were arriving for Wednesday evening prayers when a fighter jet dropped a bomb on the Light of the Martyrs Mosque in the Shaar neighborhood. The blast destroyed a room used for ritual washing and part of the prayer hall itself, he said via Skype. □



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Libyan Islamist denies role in Benghazi attack

**ESAM MOHAMED
MAGGIE MICHAEL
Associated Press**

TRIPOLI, Libya (AP) — A Libyan Islamist militia commander who a witness and officials say helped lead the deadly assault on the U.S. Consulate in Benghazi said on Thursday that he was at the building that night, but denied he was involved in the attack. Ahmed Abu Khattala, who describes himself as a founder and commander of the Islamist militia Abu Obaida Bin Jarrah, told The Associated Press by telephone that he went to the consulate in the eastern Libyan city on Sept. 11 to rescue men that he had been informed were trapped inside. Abu Khattala said that de-

spite reports of his involvement, he was had not been questioned by Libyan authorities and was not in hiding, and that he was going about his daily business as a construction contractor in Benghazi. U.S. Ambassador Chris Stevens and three other Americans died in the attack. It has become an issue in the U.S. election season, with Republicans accusing the Obama administration of being slow to label the assault an act of terrorism early on, and slow to strike back at those responsible. A Libyan witness interviewed in the aftermath of the attack by the Associated Press said that

Abu Khattala was present directing fighters. The witness spoke anonymously for fear of retaliation.

in the background. The New York Times has quoted unnamed Libyan officials as singling out



In this Sept. 13, 2012 file photo, a Libyan man investigates the inside of the U.S. Consulate, after an attack that killed four Americans, including Ambassador Chris Stevens on the night of Tuesday, Sept. 11, 2012, in Benghazi, Libya. A Libyan Islamist militia commander who a witness and officials say helped lead the deadly assault on the U.S. Consulate in Benghazi said on Thursday that he was at the building that night, but denied he was involved in the attack.

(AP Photo/Mohammad Hannon)

An AP reporter was also shown a camera photo of a long-haired, long-bearded man in the Afghan-style robe favored by many radicals that other Benghazi residents identified as the 41-year-old militia leader. The consulate's gate with barbed wire could be seen

Abu Khattala as a commander in the attack, calling him a leader in the hardline Islamist Ansar al-Shariah militia. Other Libyan witnesses say they saw Ansar al-Shariah trucks mounted with heavy weapons outside the consulate.

The overlap between Abu Obaida Bin Jarrah and Ansar al-Shariah is not clear. Libya's rebel council moved to disband Abu Obaida Bin Jarrah after the July 2011 assassination of rebel army chief Abdel Fattah Younis, an attack blamed on the Islamist group. Some militiamen say Abu Obaida Bin Jarrah fighters joined Ansar al-Shariah, which rose to prominence during fighting later in the war and was entrusted with security in post-war Benghazi.

In Abu Khattala's account of the night, he was informed by phone that there was a protest at the building and that four men were trapped inside. He and his men went there to rescue them.

Abu Khattala declined to explain further how and why he was there. Libya's government lacks a strong army and police force and has relied on militias, including in the past Ansar al-Shariah, to keep order.

"It was crowded inside, people were carrying stuff and leaving," he said. He said he saw smoke but no fire.

"It was the first time I learned that there was a U.S. consulate in this place," Abu Khattala said. "And I never learned about, met, or had any relation with the U.S. ambassador." □

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Iraq:

US pressed for faster arms deliveries

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraq's prime minister has pressed for faster deliveries of weapons to help arm his country's military during a meeting with a senior U.S. defense official.

Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki's office said in a state-

ment Thursday the Iraqi leader made the request during talks with U.S. Deputy Defense Secretary Ashton Carter in Baghdad. Maliki says Iraq needs to beef up its defenses to protect the country's security and national sovereignty. Carter visited the Iraqi cap-

ital during a Mideast tour that also included stops in U.S. allies Kuwait and Qatar.

Iraq has agreed to buy a range of American-made weapons, including tanks and F-16 fighter jets, as it works to rebuild and modernize its military. □

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Violence continues at Greek anti-austerity demo

DEREK GATOPOULOS
Associated Press

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — Hundreds of youths pelted riot police with fire bombs, bottles and chunks of marble Thursday as yet another Greek anti-austerity demonstration descended into violence, less than a month after more intense clashes broke out during a similar protest.

Authorities said around 70,000 protesters took to the street in two separate demonstrations in Athens during the country's second general strike in a month as workers across the country walked off the job to protest new austerity measures the government is negotiating with Greece's international creditors.

Thursday's strike was timed to coincide with a European Union summit in Brussels later in the day, at which Greece's economic fate will likely feature large.

Riot police responded with volleys of tear gas and stun grenades in the capital's Syntagma Square outside Parliament as protesters scattered during the clashes, which continued on and off for about an hour. Another general strike in late September had also seen limited, but much more intense, clashes between protesters and police.

A 65-year-old protester suffered a fatal heart attack during the demonstration but efforts to revive him failed. The organizers of the protest march he participated in said the man had fallen ill before any rioting had broken out.

Four demonstrators were injured after being hit by police, volunteer paramedics said. The Health Ministry said two of the protesters

were treated in hospital and that their injuries were not serious. Three policemen also required hospital treatment.

Hundreds of police had

The strike grounded flights, shut down public services, closed schools, hospitals and shops and hampered public transport in the capital. Taxi drivers joined in for



A demonstrator scuffles with riot police during a protest march in Athens, Greece, Oct. 18, 2012. Tens of thousands of Greeks joined a second nationwide strike in three weeks Thursday, moving to bring the country to a near-standstill in a bid to show European Union leaders that fresh austerity cuts would be crippling.

(Angelos Tzortzinis/The New York Times)

been deployed in the Greek capital ahead of the demonstration. Police said seven people were arrested Thursday, out of more than 100 detained.

nine hours, while a three-hour work stoppage by air traffic controllers led to flight cancellations. Islands were left cut off as ferries stayed in ports.

Athens has seen hundreds of anti-austerity protests over the past three years, since Greece revealed it had been misreporting its public finance figures. The country has been surviving since then with the help of two massive international bailouts worth a total €240 billion (\$315 billion). To secure them, it has committed to drastic spending cuts, tax hikes and reforms, all with the aim of getting the state coffers back under some sort of control. But while significantly reducing the country's annual borrowing, the measures have made the recession worse. By the end of next year, the Greek economy is expected to be around three quarters of the size it was in 2008. And with one in four workers out of a job, Greece has, along with Spain, the highest unemployment rate in the 27-nation European Union.

"We are sinking in a swamp

of recession and it's getting worse," said Dimitris Asimakopoulou, head of the GSE-VEE small business and industry association. "180,000 businesses are on the brink and 70,000 of them are expected to close in the next few months."

The country's four-month-old coalition government is negotiating a new austerity package with debt inspectors from the EU, International Monetary Fund and European Central Bank. The idea is to save €11 billion (\$14.4 billion) in spending — largely on pensions and health care — and raise an extra €2.5 billion (\$3.3 billion) through taxes.

"In 2011, only 20 percent of businesses were profitable," Asimakopoulou said. "So these new tax measures present small businesses with a choice: Dodge taxes or close your shop."

After more than a month and a half of arguing, a deal seems close. □

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TAKEN 2 daily: 7:30 9:45 SP PG-13 late show: 12:00	TAKEN 2 daily: 7:45 10:00 SP PG-13 late show: 12:00
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Ireland's 1st abortion clinic opens amid protests

SHAWN POGATCHNIK

Associated Press

BELFAST, Northern Ireland

(AP) — The first abortion clinic on the island of Ireland opened Thursday in downtown Belfast, unleashing angry protests on the street and uniting Catholic and Protestant politicians in calls to investigate the new facility. The clinic, run by the British family planning charity Marie Stopes, will be permitted to provide abortions only in exceptional circumstances to women less than nine weeks pregnant.

But the opening caught Northern Ireland's socially conservative politicians off guard, and they vowed to launch an investigation into how the clinic operates. About 400 protesters who lined the sidewalk outside the facility all day said they were certain that public pressure would force authorities to shut it.

"I expect the heads of government to run Marie Stopes out of Northern Ireland," the protest leader, Bernadette Smyth of the pressure group Precious Life, told supporters through a

bullhorn. "Those who have come ... storm heaven with your prayers!"

Abortion is one of few issues that unites Northern Ireland, a predominantly Protestant corner of the United Kingdom, and the mostly Catholic Republic of Ireland. Both

woman's life at risk from continued pregnancy. Both effectively export the controversy to Britain, where abortion on demand has been legal since 1967. An estimated 4,000 women from the Irish Republic, and 1,000 from Northern Ireland,

about their absence.

Inside the clinic on Thursday, doctors and counselors dealt with several women in crisis pregnancies. They reported being deluged with calls from women, including Republic of Ireland residents, seeking appointments.

Outside, protesters displayed posters with graphic pictures of aborted fetuses, sang hymns and sparred verbally with passing pedestrians, who made clear they want liberalized access to abortion in Northern Ireland. Protesters didn't directly heckle people entering or leaving the clinic, which is inside a much larger building with several offices.

Directors of Marie Stopes emphasized they would comply fully with Northern Ireland's law permitting abortions only when the woman's life or long-term health is endangered. They said while such exceptional abortions are already carried out in secrecy in Northern Ireland hospitals, between 30 and 50 a year, many more eligible women

travel to Britain rather than confront stern anti-abortion attitudes at home.

Tracey McNeill, director of Marie Stopes clinics across the United Kingdom, said some of the approximately 1,000 women who travel each year to Britain for abortions "would have been entitled to have that care within Northern Ireland, but they didn't know where to go, they didn't know who to talk to."

The Belfast clinic, she said, "is not about increasing the number of terminations of pregnancies in Northern Ireland. It's about providing it to that small number of people who will be eligible for it within their own country."

The senior legal adviser to Northern Ireland's Catholic-Protestant government, Attorney General John Larkin, said he would be happy to aid any legislative investigation into the clinic. Lawmakers quickly accepted the suggestion and said they would summon clinic officials to fact-finding hearings, with Larkin free to ask questions, too. □



Protesters opposed to abortion hold placards outside the Marie Stopes clinic in Belfast, Northern Ireland, Thursday, 18, 2012. The first abortion clinic on the island of Ireland has opened in Belfast, sparking protests by Christian conservatives from both the Catholic and Protestant sides of Northern Ireland's divide. The Marie Stopes center plans to offer the abortion pill to women less than nine weeks pregnant _ but only if doctors determine they're at risk of death or long-term health damage from their pregnancy. That's the law in both Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, where abortion is otherwise illegal.

(AP Photo/Peter Morrison)

jurisdictions keep abortion outlawed except in cases where doctors deem the

travel there for abortions annually, often lying to family, friends and colleagues

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Violent Mexico border state is snapshot of nation

OLGA R. RODRIGUEZ

Associated Press

PROGRESO, Mexico (AP)

— Every Sunday, some 100 people gather for pick-up baseball games in a dusty open field marked only by a dirt mound and rusted bleachers. It's the event of the week for this small northern Mexico town of 800 people where there is just one gas station and no supermarket, bank or high school.

Despite the crowd, nobody is willing to admit they were there the afternoon of Oct. 7 or saw the shootout just outside the ball field in the heart of Coahuila state. Mexican marines gunned down Heriberto Lazcano, a founder and top leader of the Zetas drug cartel and the biggest kingpin netted so far in President Felipe Calderon's six-year assault on organized crime.

Days later, no one would even admit to playing in the game. "We don't like sports," said one teenager waiting for his school bus

last week when an Associated Press reporter asked him and his friends if they had played that Sunday. The players in the weekly games are largely in their

as he ran for his life, but insist that they were home at the time and that they thought it was fireworks. The reluctance to speak isn't surprising.



An entrance to the town of Progreso, the alleged site where Heriberto Lazcano, a founder and top leader of the Zetas drug cartel, was killed in Mexico's Coahuila state. Despite the crowd, nobody is willing to admit they were there the afternoon of Oct. 7 or saw the shootout just outside the ball field in the heart of Coahuila state, the alleged site where Mexican marines gunned down Lazcano, the biggest kingpin netted so far in Mexico's President Felipe Calderon's six-year assault on organized crime. (AP Photo/Olga R. Rodriguez)

teens. Some townspeople do say they heard the explosions from grenades that Lazcano reportedly tossed

Cartel wars in neighboring states have made Coahuila a hideout for the Zetas, much like the remote

"Golden Triangle" area of northwestern Mexico, where the world's most-wanted drug lord, Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman, is rumored to seek cover.

"Coahuila is for the Zetas what the Sierra Madre is for El Chapo ... easily defensible, sparsely populated and relatively easy to get in and out of," said security expert Samuel Logan, co-author of a recent book on the Zetas.

Silence and fear govern Coahuila's rugged mining and agricultural terrain, home to 95 percent of Mexico's coal reserves.

The state provides the latest snapshot of a bloody drug war that's killed well over 50,000 people since 2006 and the nation's uncertainty as President-elect Enrique Pena Nieto brings Mexico's old ruling party back to power when he takes office Dec. 1. □

Honduran Supreme Court rejects 'model cities' idea

ALBERTO ARCE

Associated Press

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (AP)

— Honduras' Supreme Court has struck down a plan to build a series of model cities with their own independent tax and justice systems, a proposal that was meant to spur economic growth in this Central American country struggling with corruption and crime.

Court spokesman Daniel Aguirre said the justices voted 13-2 Wednesday evening that legislation permitting the creation of special development zones outside the jurisdiction of ordinary Honduran law was unconstitutional, partly because it placed Honduran territory out of government control.

Proponents of the model cities project said Thursday that the court decision was a blow to Honduran efforts to attract more international investment. Opponents said they were happy with the decision, which was expected to put an end to the model cities idea.

Authorization for the private cities was passed by the Honduran Congress in January 2011 amid controversy that included objections to handing over control of Honduran territory.

A U.S.-based investment group had been expected to put up \$15 million to begin

building basic infrastructure for the first model city near Puerto Castilla on the Caribbean coast.

An international group of investors and government representatives had promoted the project as a way to bring badly needed economic growth.

The project's aim was to strengthen Honduras' weak government and failing infrastructure, overwhelmed by corruption, drug-related crime and lingering political instability after a 2009 coup.

The "model cities" would have had their own judiciary, laws, governments and police forces. They also would have been empowered to sign international agreements on trade and investment and set their own immigration policy.

The project was opposed by civic groups as well as the indigenous Garifuna people, who said they didn't want their land near Puerto Castilla used in the project. Living along Central America's Caribbean coast, the Garifuna are descendants of the Amazon's Arawak Indians, the Caribbean's Caribes and escaped West African slaves.

Oscar Cruz, a former constitutional prosecutor, filed a motion with the Supreme Court last year challenging the project as unconstitutional and calling it "a catastrophe for Honduras." □

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Turnover clouds Afghan military as U.S. plans exit

ROD NORDLAND

© 2012 New York Times

KABUL, Afghanistan — The first thing Col. Akbar Stanikzai does when he interviews recruits for the Afghan National Army is take their cellphones.

He checks to see if the ringtones are Taliban campaign tunes, if the screen savers show the white Taliban flag on a black background, or if the phone memory includes any insurgent beheading videos.

Often enough they flunk that first test, but that hardly means they will not qualify to join their country's manpower-hungry military. Now at its biggest size yet, 195,000 soldiers, the Afghan army is so plagued with desertions and low re-enlistment rates that it has to replace a third of its entire force every year, officials say.

The attrition strikes at the core of America's exit strategy in Afghanistan: to build an Afghan National Army that can take over the war and allow the United States and NATO forces to withdraw by the end of 2014. The urgency of that deadline has only grown as the pace of the troop pullout has become an issue in the American presidential campaign.

The Afghan deserters complain of corruption among their officers, poor food and equipment, indifferent medical care, Taliban intimidation of their families and, probably most troublingly, a lack of belief in the army's ability to fight the insurgents after the U.S. military withdraws.

On top of that, recruits now undergo tougher vetting because of concerns that enemy infiltration of the Afghan military is contributing to a wave of attacks on international forces. Stan-

ikzai, a senior official at the army's National Recruiting Center, is on the front line of that effort; in the six months through September, he and his team of 17 interviewers have rejected 962 applicants, he said.

"There are drug traffickers who want to use our units for their business, enemy infiltrators who want to raise problems, jailbirds who can't find any other job," he said. During the same

period, however, 30,000 applicants were approved. "Recruitment, it's like a machine," he said. "If you stopped, it would collapse." Despite the challenges, so far the Afghan recruiting process is not only on track, but actually ahead of schedule. Afghanistan's army reached its full authorized strength in June, three months early, though there are still no units that U.S. trainers consider able to operate entirely without NATO assistance.



Mohammad Fazal Kochai, an Afghan National Army deserter, in Kabul. The Afghan Army is so plagued with rampant desertions and low re-enlistment rates that it has to replace a third of its entire force every year.

(Mauricio Lima/The New York Times)

According to Brig. Gen. Dawlat Waziri, the deputy

spokesman for the Afghan Defense Ministry, the army's desertion rate is now 7 to 10 percent. Despite substantial pay increases for soldiers who agree to re-enlist, only about 75 percent do, he said. (Recruits commit to three years of service.) Put another way, a third of the Afghan army perpetually consists of first-year recruits fresh off a 10- to 12-week training course. And in the meantime, tens of

thousands of men with military training are put at loose ends each year, albeit without their army weapons, in a country rife with militants who are always looking for help. "Fortunately there are a lot of people who want a job with the army, and we've always managed to meet the goal set by the Ministry of Defense for us," said Gen. Abraham Ahmadzai, the deputy commander of the National Recruiting Center. The country's 34 provincial recruitment centers have a combined quota of 5,000

new recruits a month.

"We're not concerned about getting enough young men," Ahmadzai said, "just as long as we get that \$4.1 billion a year from NATO."

That is the amount pledged by the United States and its allies to continue paying to cover the expenses of the Afghan military. In terms of soldiers' pay, that underwrites \$260 a month for the lowest ranks, which

Afghan officials have proposed a four-year effort to order the recall of 22,000 deserters, according to Ahmadzai.

Meanwhile, Afghan deserters live so openly that they list their status as a job reference.

Ghubar, 27, who is from Parwan province but lives in Kabul, deserted from his battalion with the 1st Brigade in Kabul just six months into his three-year commitment. Citing his military training, he promptly got a job as a security guard.

Ghubar declined to give more than his first name, but was not worried about being photographed. "There is no accountability," he said. "If they had any accountability, it wouldn't be such a bad army."

Most of his complaints were echoed by the 10 other deserters interviewed on the record for this article.

"I wanted to serve my country, my homeland," Ghubar said. "But after I joined, I saw the situation was all about corruption. The officers are too busy stealing the money to defeat the insurgents."

A typical swindle described by the deserters was the diversion of the money allocated to commanders to pay for food, which is usually procured locally rather than distributed from a central depot. "Half the time we would get rice with a bone in it, with a little fat, no meat," he said.

Ghubar added, "People who join the army, they just lose their hope." Ajmal, 24, from Kabul, who also gave only his first name and deserted from the same battalion, said he knew of commanders who had signed up their sons as "ghosts," enabling them to collect army pay while attending university full time. □



Manchebo Resort continues community outreach program

As part of their community and sustainability outreach program, the maintenance team of Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa, on Thursday October 10, 2012, took time out from their busy schedule to deliver some garbage bins to

the Imelda Kleuterschool. Manchebo is presently busy with their refurbishment program and other garbage containers had been purchased.

The head of the school, Ms. Pablo was most happy

for having received this kind donation from the hotel since the elementary school did not have any

bins available on property. The kids were quite happy and stood next to the garbage bins to have their pic-

tures taken together with the hotel's Maintenance Team, head of the school and a teacher. □



Loyal Visitors honored at The Aruba Beach Club



Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring three lovely Ladies whom are loyal and friendly visitors of Aruba, at the Aruba Beach Club, as Ambassadors of Goodwill.

The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of

appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 20-or-more consecutive years.

The honorees were Edith Onusseit, Elizabeth Barry and Rita Gips.

All three Ladies are loyal members of the Aruba Beach Club for over 20 years, and they love the Island very much, because of the friendly



people, the climate, beaches, restaurants, the diversity of the island, because Aruba feels like a second home and the people are like a family to them. The certificate was presented by Ernest Giel, representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, together with Susan Gibson, representing the Aruba Beach Club. □

Loyal visitors honored by ATA at the Costa Linda Beach Resort

Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring two very nice couples, whom are loyal and friendly visitors of Aruba, at the Costa Linda Beach Resort, as Ambassadors of Goodwill. The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 20-or-more consecutive years.

The honorees were James and Antoinette Santo and Ron and Pat Bouchard. Both

couples are loyal members of the Costa Linda Beach Resort, and they love the island very much, because of the friendly people, the climate, beaches, restaurants, the diversity of the island, because Aruba feels like a second home and the people are like a family to them. The certificate was presented by Ernest Giel, representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, together with Gloria Janga and Miriam Rodriguez, representing the Costa Linda Beach Resort. □



**Beauty
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*Emily
Graham*

She is from New Jersey, USA. It is her first time in Aruba and she is on her honeymoon. What she loves the most of Aruba is sunshine! She is staying at the Occidental Grand.

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U.S. considers giving more Caribbean states duty-free goods access under CBERA

BASSETTERRE, St Kitts, Thursday, October 15, 2012 - Several Caribbean Community (CARICOM) countries could benefit as the United States considers whether to designate them eligible to receive benefits under the Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act (CBERA). Since 1983, the Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI) has granted unilateral duty-free treatment for imports of certain eligible articles from CBI beneficiary countries. Currently 17 countries and dependent territories receive benefits under the CBERA. Seven of these countries and dependent territories receive benefits under the Caribbean Basin Trade Partnership Act (CBTPA). The Office of the US Trade Representative (USTR) in Washington, DC, said it is requesting comments no later than November 9 on the possible extension of trade preferences under CBERA, as amended by the CBTPA to countries not currently receiving them. The USTR is considering whether to designate Aruba, The Bahamas, Dominica, Grenada, Montserrat, St Kitts and Nevis and St Vincent and the Grenadines as eligible to receive benefits under CBTPA. It said while Congress identified The Bahamas, Grenada, Montserrat, St Kitts and Nevis, and St Vincent for benefits under CBERA in 1983 and CBTPA in 2000, these countries did not request benefits under CBTPA until 2012. The CBTPA is currently authorized through September 30, 2020, and the USTR said that it is considering whether to designate Curacao, St Maarten, and the Turks and Caicos Islands as eligible to receive benefits under CBERA/CBTPA.

USTR said that Congress had identified the Turks and Caicos as potentially eligible for benefits in 1983 but the country did not request beneficiary status until July 2012. Separately, as a result of the dissolution of the Netherlands Antilles in October 2010, Curacao and St Maarten became successor political entities and have therefore requested the receipt of CBERA and CBTPA benefits. Similarly, Aruba was designated as a CBERA beneficiary country as of January 1, 1986, upon becoming independent of the Netherlands Antilles but did not request CBTPA benefits until October 2012. USTR said that interested parties should submit comments on whether these countries meet the appropriate eligibility criteria. For CBERA, these include whether the country is communist, has nationalized ownership or control of property owned by a US citizen or corporation, fails to act in good faith in enforcing arbitral awards in favor of US citizens or corporations, and affords preferential treatment to the products of another developed country that could harm US commerce among other criteria. It said that other measures include the country's economic conditions, assurances of equitable and reasonable access to its markets and basic commodity resources, compliance with accepted rules of international trade, use of export subsidies, export performance requirements or local content requirements that distort international trade, contribution to regional revitalization through trade policies. □

Terry and Stacey Martin honored by ATA at the Marriott Surf Club



Recently the Aruba Tourism Authority had the great pleasure of honoring a very nice couple whom are loyal and friendly visitors of Aruba, at the Marriott Surf Club, as Distinguished Visitors. The symbolic honorary title is presented in the name of the Minister of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guests who visit Aruba for 10-to-19 consecutive years. The honorees were Terry and Stacey Martin, from Panama City Beach, Florida. Terry and Stacey love Aruba very much, because of the friendly people, the climate, beaches, restaurants, and this year is very special because they came to Aruba to celebrate their 20th anniversary: Congratulations Terry and Stacey! The certificate was presented by Ernest Giel, representing the Aruba Tourism Authority, together with Daniela Richardson, representing the Marriott Surf Club. □

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International Health Leaders pledge to work together to eliminate cholera in Haiti and the Dominican Republic

Washington, DC, 17 October 2012 — Marking the fifth annual Global Handwashing Day on October 15, and approaching the second anniversary of the first case of reported cholera in Haiti in 2010, Partners in Health, Veolia Environment Foundation, Zanmi Lasante, and Catholic Relief Services became the newest members of the Regional Coalition on Water and Sanitation for the Elimination of Cholera in the Island of Hispaniola.

The announcement was made during an expert-led symposium co-sponsored by the Center for Strategic International Studies (CSIS) and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) to discuss the ambitious efforts of the Coalition.

The Coalition was originally launched in June 2012 to bring together technical expertise, raise new funds, and mobilize previously committed pledges to support the governments of Haiti and the Dominican Republic in improving access to water and sanitation. The Coalition evolved from a call to action that the governments of Haiti and the Dominican Republic put forward last January. This call to action was originally supported by a core partnership of PAHO, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and UNICEF. Efforts since have focused on expanding the partnership, thus resulting in the more formal Coalition of 17 partners.

Experts participating in the symposium described the opportunities presented by regional collaboration on water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) activities,

and identified opportunities for greater engagement on cholera elimination by the non-government sector. Since the start of the cholera outbreak nearly two years ago, approximately 600,000 people have fallen ill due to cholera in Haiti with more than 7,500 deaths. The Dominican Republic has reported more than 25,000 cases and approximately 350 deaths from cholera over the same time period.

Individuals in resource-poor areas, like those that exist throughout Haiti, without access to safe drinking water, proper sanitation, and hygiene constitute the majority of cholera cases. Drinking unsafe, cholera-infected water or eating contaminated food heighten the spread of the disease, leaving entire communities vulnerable to acute diarrheal disease, undernutrition and other related diseases.

WASH infrastructure and

behavior change are the foundation for preventing illness and death associated with cholera. For example, simple handwashing with soap can reduce diarrheal disease by 45 percent. The application of culturally appropriate and economically feasible technologies is also fundamental for long-term suc-

cess. Dr. Jon Andrus, Deputy Director of PAHO, stated, "Today, we have a unique opportunity to expand the Regional Coalition by reaching out more extensively to the private sector and NGOs. This work is a priority and is grounded in the overarching strategy of safe water and sanitation for all the citizens of Haiti

and the Dominican Republic. By implementing this strategy, water and sanitation as basic human rights will finally be accessible to everyone."

Dr. Jordan Tappero, Director of Health Systems Reconstruction Office at CDC, noted that a long term strategy is needed to expand the number of sanitary workers, especially to check and recheck the sources of water. "Few countries have declining access on WASH services as Haiti," he said, "and the earthquake only made things worse."

Kathleen Krackenberg, Senior Health and Human Resource Policy Advisor at the World Bank talked about their work on capacity building for the Ministry of Health of Haiti.

She said that to enhance water and sanitation in the country was a key priority for the World Bank and also a way to create opportunities. □



Darlene Derosier, 43, a Muslim, posts a how-to sign on the Islamic tradition of washing parts of the body in preparation for prayer at the Al-Fattah Mosque in Gressier, Haiti. The constant washing, she said, helps her and other Muslims avoid cholera, the water-borne illness that health officials say has sickened hundreds of thousands and killed thousands since surfacing after the quake. (AP Photo/Dieu Nalio Chery)

Cuba releases 1st Castro letter in months

PETER ORSI

Associated Press

HAVANA (AP) — Cuban news media on Thursday published the first new writing in months from retired Cuban leader Fidel Castro.

The letter, which was dated Wednesday, comes in the wake of rumors that prompted relatives in both Cuba and Miami to deny that the health of the 86-year-old ex-president was critical. Castro has not been seen in public since video images showed him greeting a visiting Pope Benedict XVI in late March, and the last of his essays known as "Reflections" was published June 19.

In the letter published by the Communist Party daily Granma, Castro congratulated students of a Cuban medical institute on its 50th anniversary and recalled how just days after it

opened in 1962, it was converted into an anti-aircraft installation during the Cuban Missile Crisis.

"In that spirit was born and grew the tradition of that medical institution which, after the most critical days were overcome, was able to forge tens of thousands of professionals and take our country to the highest levels of prevention and health," Castro wrote. Castro, whose revolution seized power in Cuba in 1959, left office in 2006 due to a life-threatening intestinal condition. His younger brother Raul now serves as president. However even in retirement and largely out of sight, he continues to cast a long shadow.

Castro's "Reflections," essays and ruminations on everything from international current affairs to the remarkable flexibility of yoga masters, are

printed in all state-run newspapers and painstakingly read word-for-word at the top of news broadcasts.

His four-month public silence is not unprecedented, but the rumor mill picked up steam last week after he did not publicly congratulate close ally Hugo Chavez on winning a hard-fought re-election campaign in Venezuela. Chavez had said just before the vote that he been in touch with Castro.

Late last week, Castro's son and sister both denied that his health was in danger, and state media said a wreath in his name was placed at the final resting place of independence hero Jose Marti on a holiday marking the onset of Cuba's fight to break from Spanish colonial rule.

"These are pure rumors," sister Juanita Castro said from her home in Miami. □

SPORTS

Aruba TODAY



Minnesota Lynx guard Lindsay Whalen (13) pushes the ball past Indiana Fever guard Briann January (20) in the first half of Game 2 of the WNBA basketball Finals Wednesday, Oct. 17, 2012, in Minneapolis.

Associated Press

Augustus, Lynx beat Fever 83-71, level finals

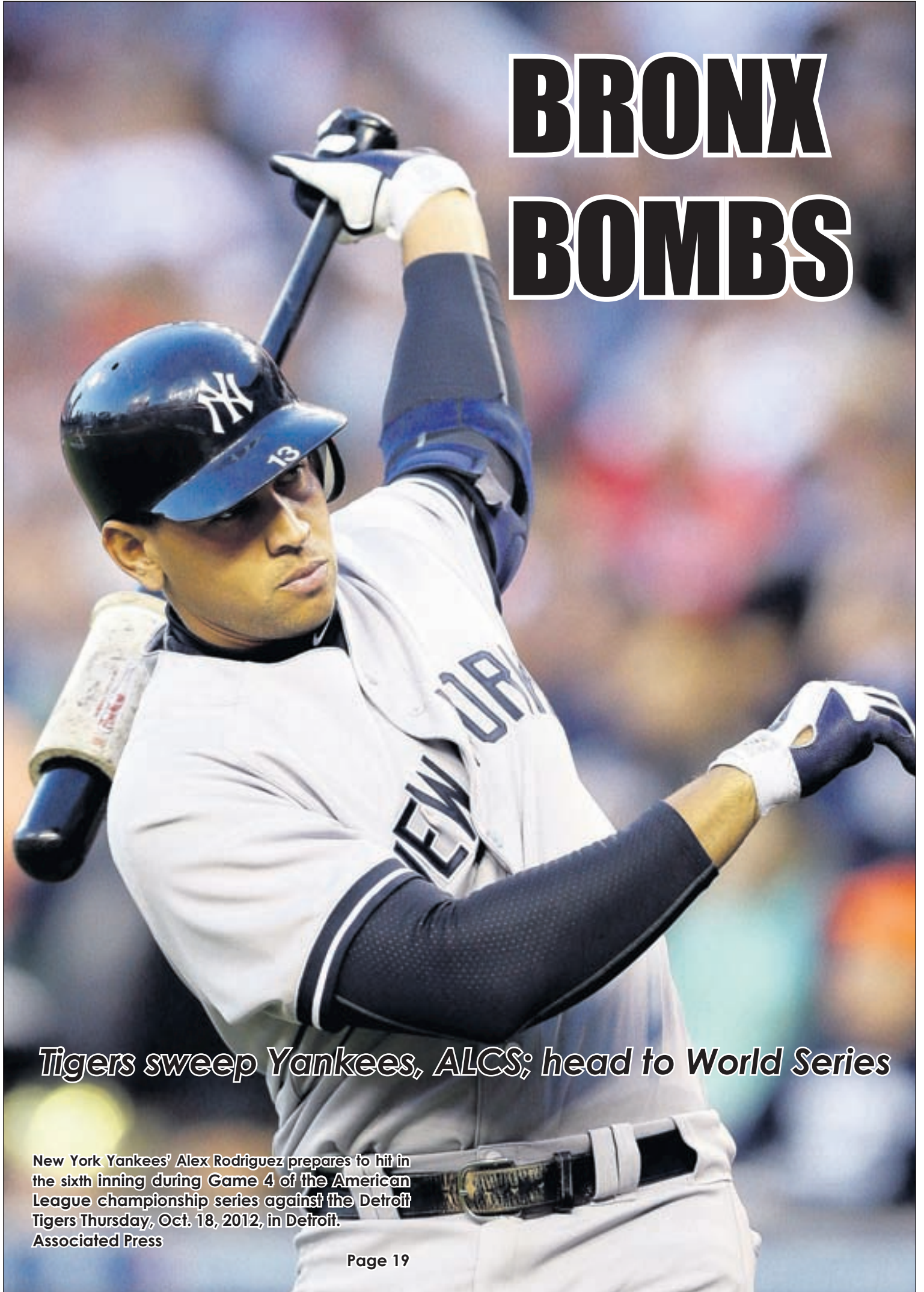
DAVE CAMPBELL
AP Sports Writer

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Seimone Augustus scored 23 of her 27 points in the second half to help the Minnesota Lynx surge past the Indiana Fever 83-71 on Wednesday night to level the WNBA finals at 1-all.

Maya Moore contributed 23 points and the defending champion Lynx forced the Fever into 24 turnovers, 15 after halftime. Tamika Catchings led the way as usual with 27 points and eight rebounds, but the Fever's defense faded after a dominant start. They let the Lynx score 29 points in the third quarter and bring an already-loud crowd into the game even more.

The series now moves to Indiana. Game 3 is on Friday and Game 4 is on Sunday. Augustus, named to the All-WNBA first team earlier Wednesday for the first time in her well-decorated career, swished a 3-pointer with about 6 minutes left to give the Lynx a 71-57 lead, their biggest to that point after the sluggish beginning.

Continued on Page 21



BRONX BOMBS

Tigers sweep Yankees, ALCS; head to World Series

New York Yankees' Alex Rodriguez prepares to hit in the sixth inning during Game 4 of the American League championship series against the Detroit Tigers Thursday, Oct. 18, 2012, in Detroit.

Associated Press

Germany's Haas lands 500th win on ATP Tour

ERIC WILLEMSSEN

Associated Press

VIENNA (AP) — Tommy Haas reached another milestone in his 16-year professional tennis career Thursday by becoming the fourth player still active to win 500 matches on the ATP Tour, joining Roger Federer (871), Rafael Nadal (583) and Lleyton Hewitt (566).

The 34-year-old German, who won 13 career titles and was ranked a career-high second in 2002, reached the mark by defeating Jesse Levine of the United States 6-4, 6-2 in the second round of the Erste Bank Open.

"It was a major goal of mine," said Haas, who returned to the top 20 this week after recovering from persistent shoulder and hip injuries. "It makes me very proud, and it's certainly one of the biggest achievements of my career especially after all what happened."

Haas is the 38th player in the open era to achieve the feat.

Jimmy Connors leads the all-time ranking with 1,243 wins ahead of Ivan Lendl (1,071), Guillermo Vilas (923), John McEnroe (875) and Federer. Boris Becker (713) was the first German player to pass the mark.

"We got a daughter (in Nov. 2010) during the time I was injured and that motivated me to come back," Haas said. "I hoped she could see me play one day so she would realize what her father has done in his career. As long as the body holds up and I enjoy it, I will keep playing."

Immediately after the match, tournament organizers presented Haas with a car — a Fiat 500 — which he took for a couple of turns on the center court.

"A great gift and a real bonus for me," Haas said. □



Tommy Haas of Germany returns a shot to Novak Djokovic of Serbia during the men's singles Quarterfinal match at the Shanghai Masters tennis tournament at Qizhong Forest Sports City Tennis Center in Shanghai, China, Friday Oct. 12, 2012.
Associated Press

RSL unable to capitalize in 0-0 draw with Seattle



Seattle Sounders goalkeeper Michael Gspurning dives for a ball in the second half of an MLS soccer match against Real Salt Lake, Wednesday, Oct. 17, 2012, in Seattle. The teams played to a 0-0 tie.

Associated Press

SEATTLE (AP) — Real Salt Lake maintained its three-point lead over Seattle by drawing 0-0 away to the Sounders on Wednesday,

with the hosts hanging on despite being a man down for the final hour.

The result moved Salt Lake to 56 points compared to Seattle's 53, though the Sounders have two games to play compared to Real's one. Both teams have already qualified for the playoffs but the order of their finish affects seedings and home-ground advantage.

Seattle was reduced to ten men when defender Zach Scott was issued a second yellow card and sent off in the 30th minute after a reckless tackle on midfielder Javier Morales.

There were very few scoring chances in the match, but Seattle's Austrian goalkeeper Michael Gspurning saved the draw for the Sounders in the final moments. He first punched Chris Schuler's shot wide of the goal then, after a scramble in the box, he kept Sebastian Velasquez's deflected shot out of the net.

Seattle hosts Dallas on Sunday then closes the regular season on Oct. 28 at Los Angeles.

Salt Lake closes its season on Oct. 27 hosting Vancouver. If the sides finish level on points, the first tiebreaker in playoff seeding is total goals scored where Seattle holds a slight advantage.

The Sounders are also closely looking behind at the Galaxy, who are only three points behind with two games left. □

Gay boxer set for first fight since coming out

KISSIMMEE, Florida (AP)

— Featherweight boxer Orlando Cruz is eager to get back to work in his first bout since publicly declaring his homosexuality. Cruz (18-2-1, 9 KOs) takes on Jorge Pazos at the Kissimmee Civic Center outside Orlando, Florida, on Friday night, aiming for a victory that could propel him toward a title shot.

The veteran Puerto Rican fighter and former Olympian wants to be known as much more than the first boxer to come out while still fighting. Cruz intends to be a world champion, and a victory over Mexico's Pazos (20-4, 13 KOs) is a starting point. "I do feel a little bit of pressure because of all of this," Cruz said. "The first few days were like a bucket of cold water (dumped on me), but it is something that I had to do. I'm not doing it for ratings. I answer all the questions now so that I can then concentrate on my career, which is what's important for me."



Boxer Orlando Cruz poses for pictures after a training session at a public gym in San Juan, Puerto Rico, Thursday, Oct. 4, 2012.

Associated Press

Cruz has been surrounded by attention since he came out earlier this month, doing dozens of interviews while receiving praise and support from all corners of sports and society.

His fight with Pazos for a second-tier WBO belt is under an increased spotlight, but the 31-year-old Cruz has attempted to keep his focus on his preparation. He spent the past week trimming down to make the 126-pound limit.

Cruz's declaration has received widespread attention within boxing and in

the larger sporting world. Puerto Rican fighters Juan Manuel Lopez and Wilfredo Vazquez Jr. are expected to attend Cruz's bout, and Miguel Cotto has texted his former Olympic teammate to offer support.

Even Pazos, who is fighting in the U.S. for the first time, praised his opponent's courage. "I have to win whether he is gay or not, but I don't think about that," Pazos said. "He made a decision, and I respect him for it. That is outside the ring. It is different inside the ring." □

Tigers rout Yankees 8-1 for 4-game ALCS sweep

NOAH TRISTER
AP Sports Writer

DETROIT (AP) — The Detroit Tigers advanced to the World Series for the second time in seven years by beating the New York Yankees 8-1 Thursday for a four-game sweep of the AL championship series.

Miguel Cabrera and Jhonny Peralta hit two-run homers in a four-run fourth inning against CC Sabathia, who was unable to prevent the Yankees from getting swept in a postseason series for the first time in 32 years. "Yeah, we did it," Cabrera said. "It's an unbelievable feeling. ... Four more wins, guys. Four more wins."

Max Scherzer took a no-hit bid into the sixth against a New York starting lineup that was again without Alex Rodriguez, who flied out with two on in the sixth as a pinch hitter.

Austin Jackson added a solo shot in the seventh for Detroit, and Peralta hit another homer an inning later. The game ended with first baseman Prince Fielder, Detroit's prized offseason acquisition, gleefully calling off his teammates on Jayson Nix's popup and making the catch for the final out. The Tigers spilled onto the field for a celebration that began near second base and eventually moved closer to the third-base line.

Detroit won its 11th American League pennant and first since 2006. The Tigers have five days off before the World Series starts Wednesday at defending champion St. Louis or 2010 winner San Francisco.

After scoring in just three of 39 innings during the series, New York heads home to face unpleasant questions about its future following a postseason of awful hitting, benched stars and veterans showing the wear and tear of age. Rodriguez, the \$275 million third baseman, was out of the starting lineup for the third time in the playoffs. Derek Jeter and Mariano Rivera could only

watch following season-ending injuries.

The Yankees hit .188 in the postseason and .157 in the LCS. New York went quietly in the ninth inning, with the Comerica Park crowd chanting "Sweep!" while the last three batters made out in order.

Detroit outhit New York 16-2 in the finale and 46-22 in the series. Without a World Series title since 1984, Detroit lost to Texas in last year's ALCS but signed Fielder in the offseason. The excitement of that bold move subsided a bit when the Tigers struggled to a 26-32 start in the AL Central, but they overtook the Chicago White Sox in the final 10 days of the regular season and won the division with an 88-74 record, matching the Cardinals for the fewest wins among the 10 playoff teams. And in the postseason, their starting rotation has been impeccable.

Scherzer, Justin Verlander, Anibal Sanchez and Doug Fister allowed only two

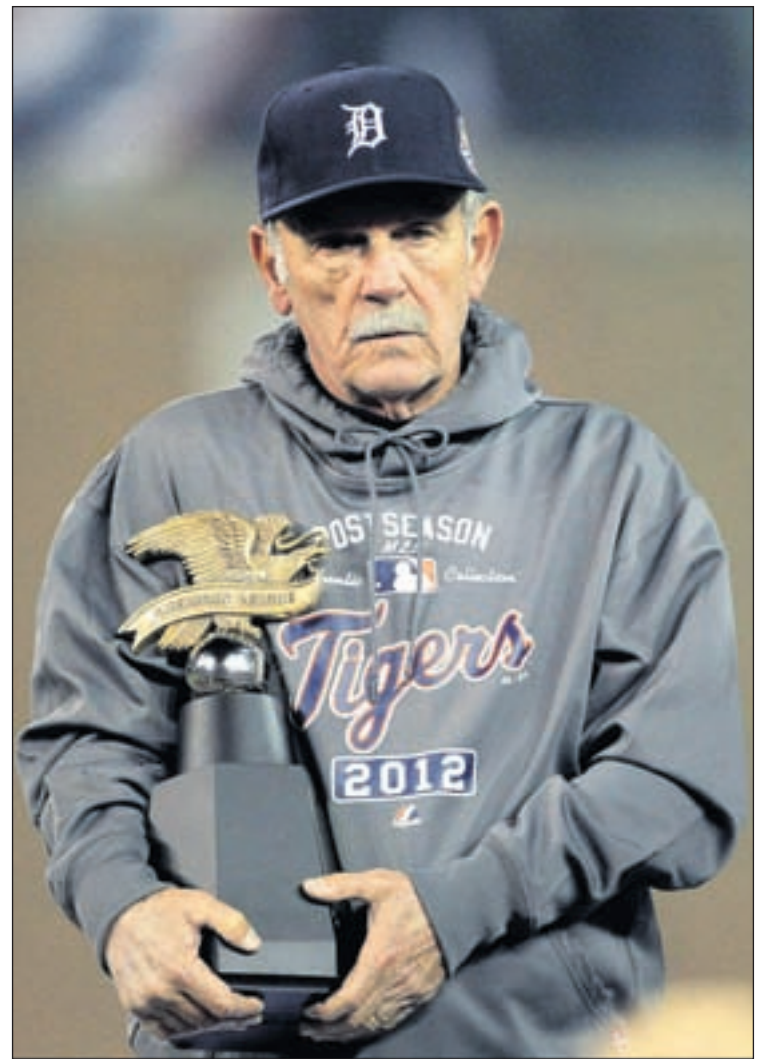
earned runs against the Yankees. New York was shut out once and totaled six runs in the series.

"Unbelievable.

It's why we're here right now because of pitching," Cabrera said. "Wow!" The Yankees lost Jeter to a broken ankle in the opening game, and the slumping Rodriguez was benched for Game 3. He was out of the starting lineup for Game 4 too, but A-Rod did have one last chance to turn his postseason around when Scherzer was lifted for left-hander Drew Smyly with two outs in the sixth and the Tigers up 6-1.

As Smyly finished warming up, Rodriguez popped out of the dugout to pinch hit for Raul Ibanez, but with men on first and third, he hit a routine fly to center field. He grounded out in the ninth, completing a postseason with no RBIs.

The Yankees failed to win a game in a postseason series for only the fifth time. They hadn't been swept



Detroit Tigers manager Jim Leyland holds the William Harridge Trophy after winning the American League championship series against the New York Yankees in Game 4, Thursday, Oct. 18, 2012, in Detroit. The Tigers, who won 8-1, move on to the World Series.

Associated Press

since a best-of-five ALCS straight against them had against Kansas City in 1980. been Cincinnati in the 1976 The last team to sweep four World Series. □

Tigers DH Delmon Young wins ALCS MVP award

By LARRY LAGE
AP Sports Writer

DETROIT (AP) - Detroit Tigers designated hitter Delmon Young has been selected MVP of the AL championship series.

Young batted .353 with two homers and six RBIs in a four-game sweep of the New York Yankees, capping his big series Thursday with a run-scoring single in the first inning to send Detroit on its way to an 8-1 rout in Game 4.

Young became the first player with four game-winning RBIs in one postseason series, according to STATS LLC. The top pick in the 2003 amateur draft, Young developed a reputation for having a volatile temper early in his career. He had an uneven 2012 regular season on the field and was arrested in New York in April on a hate-crime harassment charge. □



Detroit Tigers' Delmon Young holds the most valuable player trophy after his team won Game 4 of the American League championship series, 8-1, against the New York Yankees, Thursday, Oct. 18, 2012, in Detroit. The Tigers move on to the World Series.

Associated Press

Bud Cauley, Dawson share lead at Sea Island

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

ST. SIMONS ISLAND, Georgia (AP) — Bud Cauley has the same good vibes at Sea Island, even if the stakes are different this time.

The McGladrey Classic is where Cauley did well enough to secure his PGA Tour card, joining an elite list of players who went from college to a full tour card without going to Q-school. Now he's after his first win, and Cauley took a big step Thursday by overpowering the course for an 8-under 62.

It was his best score on the tour, and it gave him a share of the lead with Marco Dawson. Winning is about all that's left for Cauley, the 22-year-old who already has made more than \$1.7 million this year, and has moved up to No. 55 in the world.

"Obviously, I've thought about winning every tournament I've teed up in this year," Cauley said. "It's been a long year, and although I've played a lot



Marco Dawson prepares to putt on the fourth green during the first round of The McGladrey Classic PGA Tour golf tournament, Thursday, Oct. 18, 2012, in St. Simons Island, Ga.

Associated Press

this year, I haven't won. It's still a goal of mine, but I'm not thinking about that while I'm out there, or putting any more pressure on myself this week. The season is kind of wining down. It would be great to win here."

Dawson is in a more desperate position.



The McGladrey Classic is the penultimate PGA Tour event on the schedule that counts toward the money list, and Dawson is at No. 216 with only \$62,026 in 20 tournaments. The top 125 earn full cards for next year, so Dawson likely has to win to avoid a return to Q-school. His year has gone so badly that Dawson doesn't even look at the money list.

"I'm so far away from it that the only thing I can do is just try and play well," Dawson said. "And when I am playing well, just to keep it going instead of kind of messing it up like I have during the year."

Two others on the bubble — Boo Weekley (No. 121) and Rod Pampling (No. 124) joined Greg Owen at 64. Ryder Cup captain Davis Love III, the tournament

host, was in a group at 65 that included Sea Island neighbor Zach Johnson, David Toms and Camilo Villegas, who is No. 152 on the money list.

Jim Furyk shot 66 in his first event since the Ryder Cup. Dawson had a chance to mess up even a great day. He twice had to take penalty strokes after errant tee shots on his last six holes and wound up losing only one shot. He took his lone bogey on the fourth hole, and then his tee shot on the par-5 seventh hit a tree and went into the water. Dawson took his drop, played 100 yards short of the green, hit wedge to 25 feet and holed the putt for par. Cauley didn't have too many issues like that. He didn't have a par putt longer than 4 feet, and the slight kid from Jacksonville, Fla., pounded one tee shot after another, setting up wedges into many of the greens. He ran off four birdies in a five-hole stretch on the back nine that carried him to a 29. □

Cardinals beat Giants 3-1, lead series 2-1

ST. LOUIS (AP) — St. Louis' Matt Carpenter made the most of a call-up to replace an injured teammate by hitting a two-run homer to help the Cardinals beat the Giants 3-1 on Wednesday, taking a 2-1 lead in the National League Championship Series.

The reigning World Series champions overcame a 3½-hour rain delay in the seventh inning on a day when Game 4 of the American League Championship Series between the Detroit Tigers and New York Yankees was called off due to the threat of rain.

Carpenter came into the game to replace slugger Carlos Beltran, who strained his left knee on the basepaths in the first inning. After San Francisco went ahead 1-0 in the top of the third on Pablo Sandoval's groundout, Carpenter and the Cards responded immediately in the bottom

half of the frame. Jon Jay hit a single with two outs and Carpenter followed with a two-run shot. It was his first at-bat of the series but he had a good

career record against San Francisco pitcher Matt Cain, going 4-for-4. "He's a really good pitcher," Carpenter. "I've had some success. I just go up



St. Louis Cardinals' Matt Carpenter (13) watches the ball as he hits a two-run home run during the third inning of Game 3 of baseball's National League championship series against the San Francisco Giants, Wednesday, Oct. 17, 2012, in St. Louis.

there and try to battle, get a good pitch to hit."

This hit, on a 2-2 count, soared over the Cardinals bullpen in right field and was estimated at 421 feet. St. Louis made it 3-1 with a single by Shane Robinson in the seventh, ending the night for Cain, and soon after the tarpaulins were brought out.

Before the break, St. Louis starter Kyle Lohse worked around a season-worst five walks and lasted 5 2-3 innings, then reliever Mitchell Boggs struck out two batters with two runners on base to end the seventh inning.

After the long delay, and with only about a third of the original crowd of 45,850 remaining, Jason Motte closed it out, earning the first two-inning save of his career.

"I was in the clubhouse running around, I've never really had to sit around like

that," Motte said. "It was probably the most nervous I've ever been."

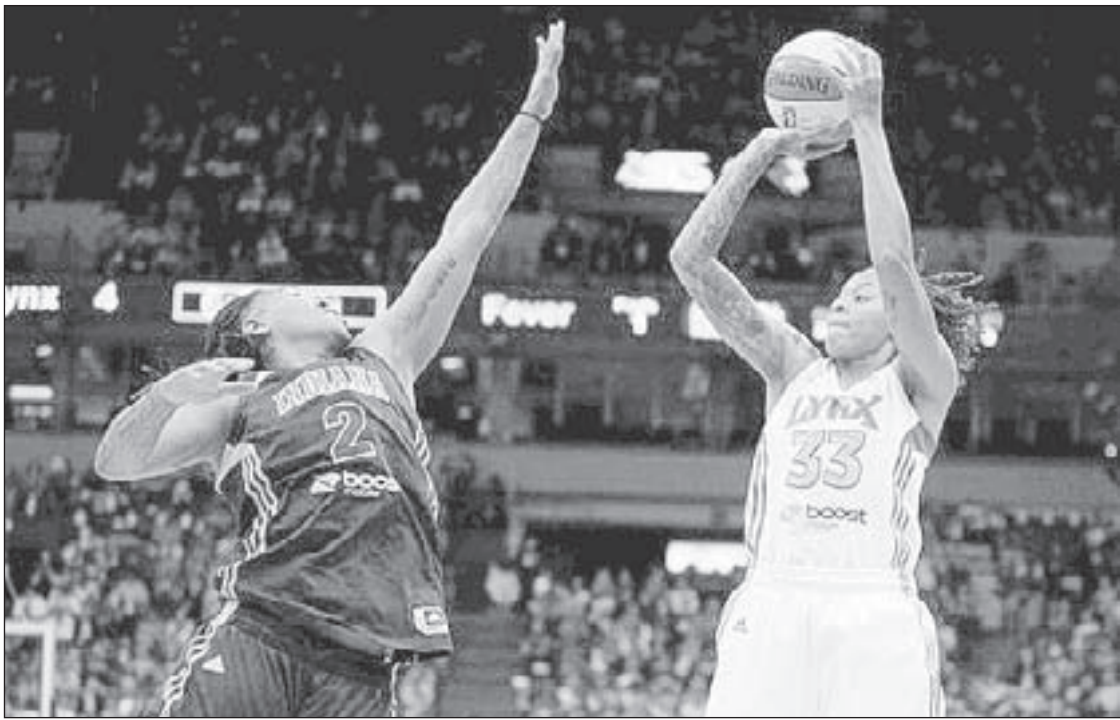
Cain lost for the second time this postseason, giving up three runs in 6 1-3 innings. The Giants, who entered the game batting just .217 in the postseason, struggled again, going 0 for 7 with runners in scoring position.

The loss ended the Giants' five-game road winning streak in the postseason, three of them this year. Game 4 is in St. Louis on Thursday, with Adam Wainwright pitching for the Cardinals.

Tim Lincecum will start for the Giants.

"He's a guy we want out there. He's been throwing the ball well," San Francisco manager Bruce Bochy said. "We've got to bounce back."

Beltran's injury will be assessed before the game to see if he can start. □



Minnesota Lynx guard Seimone Augustus (33) takes a shot against Indiana Fever forward Erlana Larkins (2) in the first half of Game 2 of the WNBA basketball Finals Wednesday, Oct. 17, 2012, in Minneapolis.

Associated Press

Augustus, Lynx beat

Continued on Page 17

Augustus, who missed six of her eight shots in the first half, flashed a big smile toward her teammates as they retreated on defense. The third quarter was extra tight, plenty physical and increasingly testy. After Lindsay Whalen tied the game at 48 with a reverse layup, Moore picked up her third foul on the other end. Whalen's layup was blocked by Briann January when the Lynx got the ball back, and coach Cheryl Reeve's game-long lobbying for more calls to go her team's way boiled over. Screaming for a whistle after her miss, Whalen was

slapped with a technical foul by official Michael Price, who quickly tacked one on for Reeve. Then the coach really lost it, tearing her suit coat off and trying to escape assistant coach Jim Peterson's long arms as he held her back from further confronting the refs. Former Minnesota Gov. Jesse Ventura, decked out in a black and green Lynx jacket, agreed with Reeve from across the court, dismissively waving his hand in disgust at the officiating crew. Catchings made both free throws to give the Fever a two-point lead, but the Lynx were fired up after that. Rebekkah Brunson soared for a rebound she tipped to Moore to retain possession. Moore pump

faked then dribbled in for a layup that drew a foul and swished the free throw for a 57-55 lead. Augustus added a 3-pointer near the end of the period for good measure. Whalen had the look in her eyes that she wasn't going to let this one slip away, making a pull-up jumper early in the fourth quarter to stretch the lead to six and following that with a 3-pointer to put the Lynx up 66-57 with 7:21 left. The Lynx, who shot a WNBA-best 47.3 percent from the field during the regular season, lost their touch in the fourth quarter of Game 1 and still couldn't find it in the first quarter of this contest. They started the game 3 for 14, avoiding a blowout only be-

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Katie Featherston Kathryn Newton

NEW THIS WEEK

PARANORMAL ACTIVITY 4

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Sat 3:10 / 5:20 / 7:30 / 9:40 / 11:50
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Timothy Dalton Lucy Hale

NEW THIS WEEK

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Tyler Perry Matthew Fox

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Fri 4:40 / 7:00 / 9:20 / 11:40
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Sun & Hol 2:20 / 4:40 / 7:00 / 9:20

<p>Martin Short Winona Ryder</p> <p>FRANKENWEENIE 3D</p> <p>3D Version with Spanish Subtitles</p> <p>Mon - Thurs 4:10 / 6:20 / 8:30 / 9:35 Fri 4:10 / 6:20 / 8:30 / 9:35 / 10:40 / 11:45 Sat 2:00 / 4:10 / 6:20 / 8:30 / 9:35 / 10:40 / 11:45 Sun & Hol 2:00 / 4:10 / 6:20 / 8:30 / 9:35</p>	<p>Liam Neeson Famke Janssen</p> <p>TAKEN 2</p> <p>With Spanish Subtitles</p> <p>ON TWO SCREENS</p> <p>Mon - Thurs 4:10 / 6:20 / 8:30 / 9:35 Fri 4:10 / 6:20 / 8:30 / 9:35 / 10:40 / 11:45 Sat 2:00 / 4:10 / 6:20 / 8:30 / 9:35 / 10:40 / 11:45 Sun & Hol 2:00 / 4:10 / 6:20 / 8:30 / 9:35</p>	<p>Anna Kendrick Rebel Wilson</p> <p>PITCH PERFECT</p> <p>Mon - Thurs 6:50 / 9:20 Fri 6:50 / 9:20 / 11:50 Sat 6:50 / 9:20 / 11:50 Sun & Hol 6:50 / 9:20</p>
<p>Ethan Hawke Juliet Rylance</p> <p>SINISTER</p> <p>With Spanish Subtitles</p> <p>Mon - Thurs 9:15 Fri 9:15 / 11:50 Sat 9:15 / 11:50 Sun & Hol 9:15</p>	<p>Kevin James Salma Hayek</p> <p>HERE COMES THE BOOM</p> <p>Mon - Thurs 4:30 / 6:50 / 9:10 Fri 4:30 / 6:50 / 9:10 / 11:30 Sat 2:10 / 4:30 / 6:50 / 9:10 / 11:30 Sun & Hol 2:10 / 4:30 / 6:50 / 9:10</p>	<p>Adam Sandler Selena Gomez</p> <p>HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA</p> <p>3D Version with Spanish Subtitles</p> <p>Mon - Thurs 5:20 / 7:30 Fri 5:20 / 7:30 Sat 3:00 / 5:20 / 7:30 Sun & Hol 3:00 / 5:20 / 7:30</p>

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Quality lapses bedevil drugmakers

KATIE THOMAS

© 2012 New York Times

Weevils floating in vials of heparin. Manufacturing plants with rusty tools, mold in production areas and – in one memorable case – a barrel of urine. These recent quality lapses at big drug companies

to fix the problems. Nearly a third of the industry's manufacturing capacity is offline because of quality issues, according to a congressional report. The shutdowns have contributed to a shortage of critical drugs, and compounding pharmacies

observers and former plant employees said that the recent quality issues were troubling and that manufacturers had been reluctant to fix problems because stopping production was too costly. Manufacturers reject descriptions of their factories



The Ben Venue Laboratories facility, which closed recently after a visit from inspectors from the Food and Drug Administration, in Bedford, Ohio, Oct. 15, 2012. Recent quality lapses at big drug companies show that contamination and shoddy practices extend beyond the loosely regulated compounding pharmacies that have attracted attention because of their link to an outbreak of meningitis.

(David Maxwell/the New York Times)

show that contamination and shoddy practices extend well beyond the loosely regulated compounding pharmacies that have attracted attention because of their link to a meningitis outbreak. In the past three years, six of the major manufacturers of sterile injectable drugs – which are subject to rigorous inspections by the federal government, as opposed to compounding pharmacies, which are generally overseen by the states – have been warned by the Food and Drug Administration about serious violations of manufacturing rules. Four of them have closed factories or significantly slowed production

have stepped into the gap as medical professionals scramble for other sources. But several serious health scares have been traced to compounding pharmacies in recent years. Authorities said 19 people had died from meningitis in an outbreak traced to a contaminated steroid made by the New England Compounding Center in Massachusetts. Supplies of the steroid became short earlier this year after two generic manufacturers, Teva and Sandoz, stopped making it. Regulators and manufacturers note that most sterile injectable drugs sold in the United States are safe and of high quality. Still, several industry

as deteriorating and say they are investing hundreds of millions of dollars to make improvements. "When you read and or hear different people in the industry saying that these are old, dilapidated, rundown facilities – absolutely not true," said David Gaugh, a senior vice president for the Generic Pharmaceutical Association, an industry trade group. Late last year, Ben Venue, a division of German drugmaker Boehringer Ingelheim, shut its plant in Bedford, Ohio, after the FDA visited the facility. Agency inspectors reported rusty tools, mold and a barrel of an "unknown liquid" later determined to be urine. □

Hospitals send out more warnings on medications

KAY LAZAR

CAROLYN Y. JOHNSON

© The New York Times

Several large Massachusetts hospitals have begun calling and sending letters to hundreds of cardiac patients advising them that they received a heart medication produced by the troubled Framingham specialty pharmacy linked to the national fungal meningitis outbreak.

The US Food and Drug Administration warned earlier this week that the heart drug might have been contaminated with a fungus, like the two injectable steroids that have apparently caused the meningitis cases. The statement was issued after a heart transplant patient fell ill with a fungal infection.

The patient received cardioplegia solution supplied by New England Compounding Center.

Administrators at Massachusetts General Hospital, Brigham and Women's Hospital, and Tufts Medical Center said in interviews Wednesday that they used cardioplegia solution from the Framingham company. The drug stops the heart from beating during surgery.

Precisely how many Massachusetts patients may be affected is unknown; state Department of Public Health spokesman David Kibbe said Wednesday evening that the agency has compiled a list for the FDA of the Massachusetts health care facilities that used the heart drug or triamcinolone acetonide, the second implicated steroid, which was included in the recent FDA warning. But Kibbe declined to release the list to the Globe, saying the department

was deferring to the FDA because of the federal investigation of New England Compounding.

FDA spokeswoman Sarah Clark-Lynn said in a statement that the agency will be posting the New England Compounding customer list to the FDA website "as soon as possible," but could not say when that might be. The agency has made public the names of 75 clinics and physicians offices that received the other steroid, methylprednisolone acetate.

The injectable steroids, used to treat back and joint pain, have so far been linked to 247 fungal infections, mostly meningitis but also some in joints. Nineteen people have died.

The concerns about the heart drug raised the possibility that suspected contamination at New England Compounding may affect even more patients than the 14,000 previously estimated to be at risk.

Massachusetts hospital officials said they are striving to inform patients as soon and as clearly as possible.

"It's a delicate communication," said Dr. Elizabeth Mort, interim senior vice president of quality and safety at Mass.

General. "On the one hand, we want to get the facts out to patients, but, on the other, you don't want to worry them unnecessarily."

Mort said Mass. General has identified a couple of hundred heart patients who received cardioplegia solution produced by New England Compounding since May 21, the time span the FDA has identified. She said the hospital did not use either of the two suspected steroids. □

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Sony redo of PlayStation Store links games, movies

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Sony Corp. is revamping its PlayStation Store as it prepares a common storefront across devices from its game console to its Web-connected TVs, Blu-ray players and phones. The rollout began for PlayStation 3 users in Europe on Wednesday and will continue in the U.S., Canada, Brazil and Mexico next Tuesday. The store puts related game and movie franchises together on one page. That will allow fans of video games like "Resident Evil" or "Lego Harry Potter" to buy or rent movies from the same series more easily. Alphabetic searches are also easier with a game controller now than before. Sony's general manager of global digital video and music services, Michael Aragon, said Sony plans to roll out similar storefronts on TVs and other devices in

the coming months.

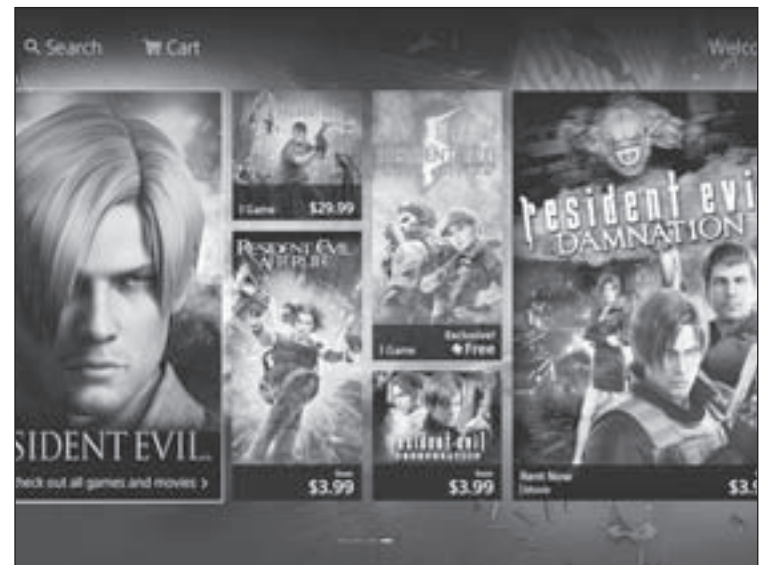
The makeover is the first major redesign of the store since it added video in 2008. It was built using Internet programming language HTML5, which will make it easier and faster to update — a process that could take weeks instead of years, Aragon said. It will also make it easier to adapt the platform to other connected devices or to future gaming consoles if and when Sony updates its PS3. The store also links what had been disparate Sony user accounts spread between connected TVs and users of the 64 million PlayStation 3 units sold worldwide.

"In the siloed past, there was a lot of different groups doing their own different things" at Sony, Aragon said. "We had to have one account, one wallet. That was priority No. 1 by a long

shot. Then we had to fix the user experience."

The overhaul of the store is one step of many as the Japanese electronics maker attempts to better meld its hardware and software services together. It is also rebuilding the trust of consumers after hackers compromised personal information including credit card data on more than 100 million user accounts in April 2011. There are now 110 million user accounts on the network.

Sony plans to make several future updates. For example, it is considering allowing users who buy or rent a movie on one device, say the PS Vita handheld, to be able to pause and then resume watching on another device, say, the PS3 connected to their TV. Currently, playback is locked to the device used to start watching. □



This image provided by Sony Corp. shows a screen shot displaying Sony's new PlayStation Store.

Associated Press

Google, Samsung to sell Chrome laptop for \$249

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Google and Samsung are introducing a lightweight laptop computer with a price similar to smaller tablet computers. The computer unveiled Thursday will sell for \$249 and run on an operating system revolving around Google's Chrome Web browser.

Like other so-called Chromebooks, this laptop doesn't have a hard drive. It functions like a terminal dependent on an Internet connection to get to information and applications stored in large data centers run by Google Inc. or other technology providers. The low-priced laptop rep-

resents Google's latest challenge to the Windows operating system used in most personal computers. It goes on sale early next week, just days before Microsoft Corp. releases Windows 8, a dramatic makeover of its operating system. Most of the PCs running on Windows 8 will sell for \$500 to \$1,000. □

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Techs plunge, dragging down most US markets

MATTHEW CRAFT
AP Business Writer
NEW YORK (AP) —

Google plummeted almost \$80 per share, more than 10 percent, and trading in the stock was halted two and a half hours Thursday after a disappointing earnings report was published ahead of schedule and surprised investors.

Bleak figures in the report about online advertising dragged down Facebook stock, too, and the Nasdaq composite index skidded 1 percent on a day when the broader stock market was mostly flat.

Google was trading at \$754 per share at 12:30 p.m. EDT, then fell almost \$20 in a minute after investors saw the report, a draft. It dropped as low as \$676, and Google halted trading at 12:50 p.m., with the stock at \$687. The stock was halted until 3:20 p.m. Companies routinely halt trading when they have news to release to investors during the market day, but two and a half hours is an unusually long suspension.

When trading in Google resumed, the stock climbed slightly, but it still finished down \$60.49, or 8 percent, at \$695.

Google blamed a printing company, R.R. Donnelley & Sons, for filing its quarterly statement with the Securities and Exchange Commission more than three hours ahead of schedule.

R.R. Donnelley & Sons stock also plunged — as much as 71 cents, or 6.5 percent, to \$10.14 — after the mistake. It later recovered most of the loss and ended the day down 9 cents.

The Google report said it earned \$2.18 billion from July through September, down from \$2.73 billion in the same period a year ago.

Profit came to \$6.53 per share, and would have been \$9.03 if not for accounting costs from employee stock compensation and restructuring charges related to Google's acquisition of Motorola Mobility, a cellphone maker.

Still, analysts polled by FactSet, a provider of finan-

cial data, were expecting \$10.63 per share.

Besides disappointing investors, the report was an embarrassment for Google. Near the top of the draft, the report said, "PENDING LARRY QUOTE," apparently a place to insert a quote from Larry Page, one of Google's founders.

ey off advertising on mobile devices.

Facebook stock declined 90 cents, or 4.6 percent, at \$18.98, with most of the loss coming after Google's earnings report. The company went public in May at \$38, but it has fallen as low as \$17.55, in part because of investor concerns about

Google is the third-largest component in the Nasdaq composite, behind Apple and Microsoft. The Nasdaq finished down 31.25 points at 3,072.87.

The broader market fared better: The Dow Jones industrial average closed down 8.06 points, or 0.06 percent, at 13,549.94. The Standard & Poor's 500 index fell 3.57 points, or 0.2 percent, to 1,457.34.

The broader market is "waiting for a clear catalyst," said Quincy Krosby, market strategist at Prudential Financial. What investors most want, she said, is a sense of direction about earnings and the economy. "We basically know what happened in the last quarter," Krosby said. "What we're looking for is what's next: Are we turning a corner? Will demand pick up at the end of the year?"

Analysts expect S&P 500 companies to say that overall earnings shrank in the third quarter compared with a year ago, according to S&P Capital IQ. That would be the first drop in exactly three years.

American Express reported quarterly revenue late Wednesday that fell short of Wall Street's expectations even though earnings were in line. Amex said card holders' rate of spending has slowed in recent months. Its stock lost \$1.71 to \$57.66. □



Specialist Michael O'Connor, left, and trader Gordon Charlop work on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange Thursday, Oct. 18, 2012. The U.S. stock market headed slightly lower on Thursday, following a leap in claims for unemployment benefits and weak results from American Express.

(AP Photo/Richard Drew)

The earnings report said that Google made about 15 percent less than a year earlier each time a user clicks on an online ad. That is the fourth straight quarter of erosion in Google's ad prices.

It is a warning sign for Facebook, which is trying to figure out how to make mon-

ads.

"Google and Facebook are very reliant on online ads," said Scott Kessler, head of technology sector equity research at S&P Capital IQ, a research firm. "So if Google's results indicate a lack of demand and growth, that's obviously a worry for Facebook."

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Google Inc.'s stock plunged suddenly on Thursday, Oct. 18, 2012, after a contractor prematurely released the search company's third-quarter earnings report.

(AP Photo/Mark Lennihan)

MICHAEL LIEDTKE

AP Technology Writer

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — As

far as unpleasant surprises go, Google hit Wall Street with a double whammy Thursday.

The Internet search leader that prides itself of organizing the world's information lost control of its own data when a contractor released its third-quarter earnings report more than three hours before the numbers were supposed to come out.

As if that was jarring enough, the numbers alarmed investors because the company's earnings and revenue fell well below analyst projections. The disappointment triggered any 8 percent drop in Google's stock price that erased about \$20 billion in shareholder wealth.

"This is a monumental failure of epic proportions," said Michael Robinson, an executive vice president for the Levick Strategic Communications, which specializes in financial crisis management. "This was bad news compounded

by bad process. It came out in the worst way possible."

Google Inc. blamed printer R.R. Donnelley & Sons

Google stock plummets on unpleasant surprise

Co. for filing the company's quarterly statement with the Securities and Exchange Commission more than three hours ahead of schedule.

"We are fully engaged in an investigation to determine how this event took place and are pursuing our first obligation, which is to serve our valued customer," R.R. Donnelley said in a statement.

Google's stock initially plunged more than 9 percent after the early release of the results.

Trading was then suspended to allow more time for the information to be digested.

After a nearly three-hour break, investors decided the results weren't quite as bad as they initially appeared, and the shares recovered slightly.

Even so, the stock wound up dropping \$60.49, or 8 percent, to close at \$695. The sell-off reflects a reversal of the optimistic sentiment that had propelled Google's stock to a new all-time high earlier this month.

The stock had surged 27 percent in the three months before Thursday's unsettling developments.

Most of the trouble appeared to be concentrated in Motorola Mobility, a troubled cellphone maker that Google bought for \$12.4 billion in May.

Analysts have been fretting that Motorola Mobility would turn into a financial albatross, and some of those fears appeared to be realized in the latest quarter spanning from July through September. □

Capital One's profit vaults 47% in 3Q

ALEX VEIGAAP

Business Writer

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Capital One Financial Corp.'s

net income vaulted 47 percent in the third quarter, as the lender's acquisition of online bank ING Direct and HSBC's U.S. credit card business helped boost its loan revenue.

The McLean, Virginia-based bank said Thursday that it recorded gains across all of its businesses in the July-

to-September period, generating annual increases in loans held for investment,

domestic card loans, average loan balances and total deposits.

A key contributor: The impact of ING and HSBC's credit card business.



Capital One's provision for credit losses increased to \$1.01 billion from \$622 mil-

lion in the quarter.

The bank's net income jumped to \$1.17 billion, or \$2.01 per share, in the three months ended Sept. 30. That compares with net income of \$813 million, or \$1.77 per share, a year earlier.

Revenue rose to \$5.78 billion from \$4.15 billion.

Analysts polled by FactSet were expecting earnings of \$1.68 on revenue of \$5.55 billion. □

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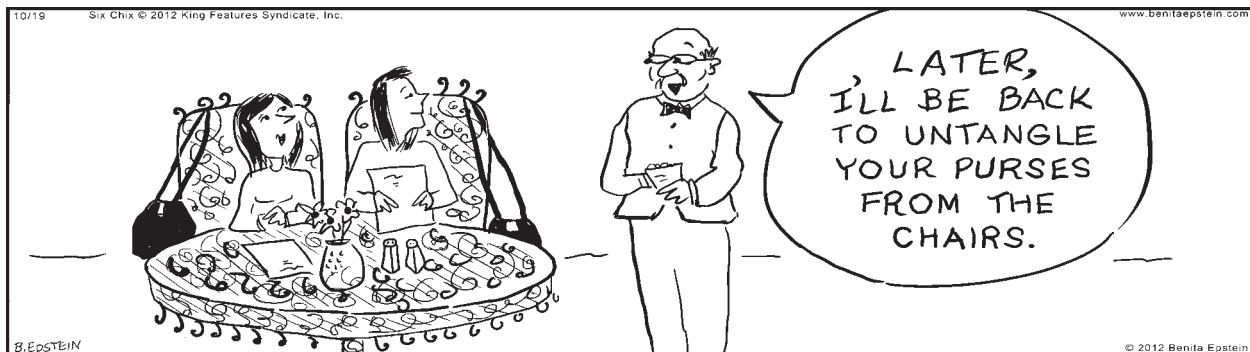
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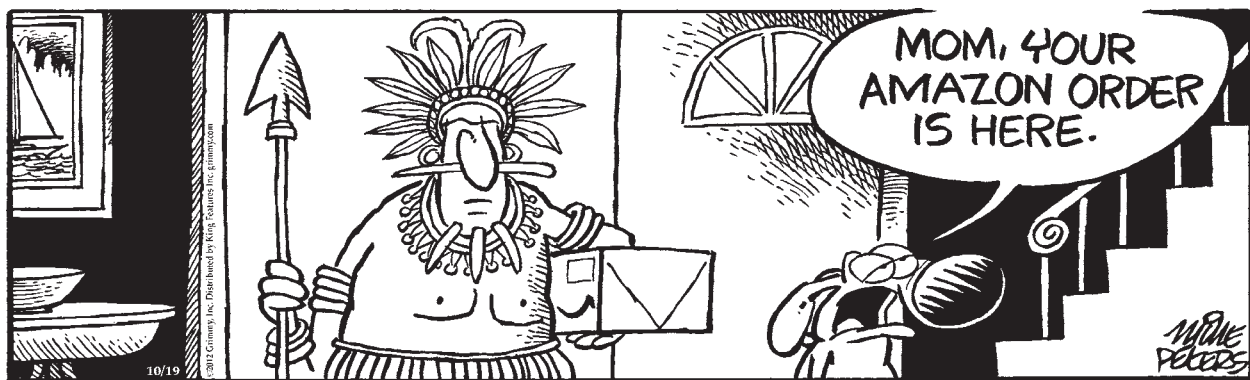
6 Chix



Blondie



Mother Goose & Grimm



Baby Blues



Zits



Conceptis Sudoku

			5	6	2			
3		4		9				
								1
		5				9	4	
	2						3	
	6	7				8		
8								
				1		3		7
		9	2		7			

Difficulty Level ★★★★★

10/19

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Sunday.

Yesterday's puzzle answer

8	4	2	9	1	7	5	3	6
9	3	1	6	8	5	7	4	2
7	5	6	3	2	4	1	8	9
2	1	9	8	4	3	6	7	5
4	6	5	1	7	9	8	2	3
3	7	8	2	5	6	4	9	1
6	8	3	4	9	1	2	5	7
5	9	4	7	6	2	3	1	8
1	2	7	5	3	8	9	6	4

ACROSS

- 1 Goes no further
- 6 Read quickly
- 10 Poncho
- 14 Namely
- 15 ___ over; assume control
- 16 Off base when you shouldn't be, for short
- 17 Sports building
- 18 Letters that mean "Pronto!"
- 19 ___-back; relaxed
- 20 Nasal openings
- 22 Loath; unwilling
- 24 Cry from a sty
- 25 Thin
- 26 "Money ___ grow on trees"
- 29 Epic by Homer
- 30 Not ___ longer; no more
- 31 Honking birds
- 33 Doesn't have
- 37 Requirement
- 39 Gathers crops
- 41 Lion's cry
- 42 Donkeys
- 44 Numerical comparison
- 46 Greek letter
- 47 Country ___; Reba's forte
- 49 A, B, C, D & F
- 51 Nonattendance
- 54 Pretense; farce
- 55 Recoil in fear
- 56 Improved
- 60 Helpful suggestion
- 61 Tack
- 63 Extra-virgin ___ oil
- 64 Rim
- 65 Suffix for cigar or kitchen
- 66 Become mature, as fruit
- 67 Tiny beginning
- 68 Observes
- 69 Impudent

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14					15				16			
17					18				19			
20					21			22	23			
24							25					
26	27	28					29					
30				31	32			33	34	35	36	
37		38	39				40		41			
42			43	44				45		46		
47				48			49		50			
51	52	53					54					
55						56				57	58	59
60					61	62			63			
64					65				66			
67					68				69			

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

10/19/12

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

L	I	M	P		G	H	A	N	A		C	H	O	P
A	R	E	A		R	I	D	E	R		H	O	P	E
C	O	L	T		O	L	D	E	R		A	B	E	T
E	N	T	R	E	A	T		D	O	G	G	O	N	E
					I	A	N		N	E	W	E	R	
M	A	J	O	R		P	O	D		N	I	C	E	R
A	R	U	T		S	E	T		T	E	N	U	R	E
R	U	N			B	E	A	C	H	E	S		G	A
I	B	E	R	I	A		H	A	D		V	A	S	E
E	A	S	E	D		B	E	T		H	O	T	E	L
					F	E	T	I	D		Y	U	L	
R	A	V	I	N	E	S		N	U	T	C	A	S	E
A	N	O	N		A	T	T	I	C		A	V	O	W
I	D	L	E		C	R	A	N	K		N	I	L	E
D	Y	E	D		H	O	N	E	Y		O	D	D	S

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10/19/12

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 38 Nutty | 52 ___ and groom |
| 40 Vision | 53 Char |
| 43 "Song ___ Blue"; Neil Diamond hit | 54 Tennis' Monica |
| 45 Speakers | 56 Snack |
| 48 Panoramas | 57 Tears |
| 50 Ms. Earhart | 58 12/24 & 12/31 |
| 51 Muscle pains | 59 Refuse to fess up to |
| | 62 Consumed |

Mormons, scouts act as partners in molding boys

ERIK ECKHOLM

© 2012 New York Times

CEDAR HILLS, Utah – In this hilltop suburb of Salt Lake City, where a vista of white spires signals a concentration of Mormons and their churches, it is a given that every boy will become a Cub Scout at 8 and then a Boy Scout at 11.

With mutual exaltation of God and country and a shared aim of nurturing “morally straight” men with leadership skills and a service ethic, the Mormons and the Boy Scouts seem made for each other, as entwined as a square knot. And in an unusual partnership dating to 1913, the Mormon church has embraced scouting wholesale, giving it a central role in preparing male youths for their two-year missionary stints and adulthood as lay priests.

Virtually every Mormon church, or ward, has a scout troop. Every Mormon boy is automatically enrolled, and the vast majority participate. An exceptional share – three out of four at Troop 1194, here in Cedar Hills – attain the top rank, Eagle.

“Scouting fits in nicely with our spiritual goals,” said David L. Beck, president of the church’s Young Men organization, in an interview at the Salt Lake City headquarters of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. “We want our young men to be upstanding citizens and good husbands and fathers.”

The all-in support of the Mormons has, in turn, been a boon for the scouts as they have struggled against a 20 percent decline in membership over the last dozen years and, most recently, faced criticism for failing in the past to prevent the sexual abuse of children.

In 2011, Mormon-sponsored packs and troops accounted for more than one-third of the country’s scout units, and the 421,000 boys they enrolled, from ages 8 to 18, made up 15 percent of the country’s 2.7 million registered scouts. (Because

every ward has its own unit, many Mormon-sponsored troops are smaller than average.) They have provided comparable shares of the \$51 million in dues the Boy Scouts of America collects each year, although

are chartered by religious groups.

In July, as they reaffirmed their restrictive policy toward openly gay members, setting off petition drives in protest, the Boy Scouts refused to explain their rea-

the church would leave. In an interview this month, Beck said he could not speculate about a hypothetical situation, but he added, “We want to continue relations with the BSA far into the future.”

The Mormon church has sometimes faced lawsuits, along with the Boy Scouts, for past failures to stop sex offenders. Both the church and the scouts say they now have exemplary protection programs.

The civic and outdoor activities of scouting and the church’s more purely spiritual training are seamlessly combined: boys are divided into the same age groups in both settings, and their bishop-appointed scoutmaster on Wednesday night is also the man who guides them on Sunday through the stages of the Aaronic priesthood, in which boys 12 to 18 years old take on growing sacred duties.

The result is an enveloping world that promotes the Mormon version of achievement and traditional values.

“It’s tremendously cohesive, a system that works wonderfully – unless you don’t fit in exactly,” said Chase Barlet, 23, who grew up Mormon in the Denver area and quit scouting just before attaining Eagle in a silent protest against scouting’s ban on gay members. He is now an openly gay corporate lawyer in Canada and has left the Mormon church.

Beck, who oversees both scouting and spiritual training of boys for the church, is not apologetic. □



A group of Boy Scouts at a meeting house of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in the Cedar Hills suburb of Salt Lake City, Oct. 11, 2012. The Mormon Church gives the Boy Scouts a central role in preparing male youths for their missionary stints and adulthood as lay priests, and the relationship is a boon to scouting.

(Mike Terry/The New York Times)

the Boy Scouts, with revenues of \$269 million in 2010, also receive large corporate donations and make tens of millions of dollars selling scout supplies.

But now, as the Boy Scouts face growing calls to reverse their policy of excluding openly gay leaders and members, the predominance of Mormon and other religious sponsors is a complicating factor. Roman Catholic churches, which like the Mormons condemn homosexual behavior, account for an additional 10 percent of members, and over all, more than two-thirds of the country’s scout units

soning except to say that “it remains in the best interest of scouting.”

What church leaders may have told the scouts in private has not been revealed, but for the Boy Scouts, the threat was implicit that a liberal shift on homosexuality could drive away the Mormons, Catholics and other church partners, decimating the organization.

In 2000, when a challenge to the exclusionary policy was argued, unsuccessfully, before the Supreme Court, lawyers for the Mormons said that if the Boy Scouts were forced to accept openly gay members,

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Former President Bill Clinton greets singer/songwriter Bruce Springsteen at a campaign event for President Barack Obama, Thursday, Oct. 18, 2012, in Parma, Ohio
Associated Press.

Springsteen explains why he's supporting Obama

NEW YORK (AP) — Bruce Springsteen is supporting President Barack Obama again, saying he believes Obama is the best person to lead the U.S. and backing off a vow not to get involved in this year's election.

The rocker posted a message on his website Wednesday night endorsing Obama's re-election, saying he had been "getting asked a lot about where I stand."

Springsteen also made his campaign debut Thursday in Ohio with former President Bill Clinton and planned to be at an event in Iowa.

Springsteen supported Obama in 2008. In his letter, he called Obama's four years in office "a really rough ride" because of the "economic chaos" from President George W. Bush's administration and "the extraordinary intensity of the opposition."

But the 63-year-old Springsteen said he's behind Obama because of the president's views on the rights of women and gays, ending the war in Iraq and tracking down Osama bin Laden.

"Right now, there is a fight going on to help make this a fairer and more equitable nation. For me, President Obama is our best choice to get us and keep us moving in the right direction," he wrote.

The election is Nov. 6. □

Tom Hanks honored at Elie Wiesel Foundation gala

JOHN CARUCCI
Associated Press

NEW YORK (AP) — When two-time Oscar winner Tom Hanks found out he was being honored by the Elie Wiesel Foundation for Humanity at the New York Public Library, he remembered he owed a couple of books.

"I've got to turn them in from 1977," Hanks said on the red carpet before going into the gala event.

Hanks, accompanied by his wife Rita Wilson, joked that when he got the call from the foundation, he responded, "No, this is the Hanks house," followed by "really" and "why?"

Hanks posed on the red carpet with Wilson, his son Colin, of "Dexter" fame, and Wiesel too.

Hanks' consistent thoughtfulness and concern with his charitable endeavors earned him the honor. He holds it higher than his acting accolades, but also realizes that the two are connected. He's proud of the work he does, and by virtue of being in a few successful movies, feels that put him in a position to be altruistic.

"We work very hard in a business that deserves and earns every bit of ridicule that we heap upon it. But at the end of the day you got



Honoree Tom Hanks, left, Rita Wilson and Elie Wiesel attend The Elie Wiesel Foundation For Humanity's Arts for Humanity Gala on Wednesday, Oct. 17, 2012 in New York.

Associated Press

to wake up in the morning and try to make the world a better place," Hanks said. The 56-year old actor says that's the way he was raised.

"We're American, and Americans take into account the common good. So in that regard, I feel very lucky and very blessed that I've been able to do that, when I've been able to do that," Hanks said.

While Hanks says he recognizes the importance of philanthropic work, he feels that arts education still needs government support.

"I believe any form of government, particularly ours in the United States of Amer-

ica, has been over and over again this engine for social change in a magnificent way when it gets around to doing the right thing. And right now, I think we're putting a lot of emphasis on the idea that philanthropy can take care of everything, which is not the case," Hanks said.

He feels it's up to elected officials to understand the good things that the arts can do for the future of our country.

"Sometimes that's the arts, and sometimes it's other things like taking care of folks that don't have any way of fixing their teeth. That's not bad, either," Hanks said. □

Jason Aldean makes surprise announcement in Boston

CHRIS TALBOTT
AP Music Writer

BOSTON (AP) — Jason Aldean will be making history at one of baseball's most historic sites.

Aldean will be the first country music star to play a concert at Fenway Park, the iconic home of the Boston Red Sox. The July 13 appearance will be the initial stop on his first stadium tour. Aldean made the announcement Thursday at the stadium with an assist from Red Sox President/CEO Larry Lucchino and members of the team who made a celebratory clip for the singer that played on



In this Feb. 12, 2012 file photo, country singer Jason Aldean arrives at the 54th annual Grammy Awards in Los Angeles.
Associated Press

Fenway's video board.

"Being the first country music artist to ever come here and headline a show is amazing," Aldean said. "It's going to be a fun night. Over the last several years, my career, especially the touring side of that, has been pretty amazing. It's been growing. So thank you guys for having us. I can't wait for July 13."

The Georgia native released his fifth album, "Night Train," this week. That title is an apt metaphor for his career, which has been steaming along on a steep trajectory. About the only thing he hadn't attained

yet was a stadium tour, and he's crossing that goal off the list.

Red Sox David Ortiz, Dustin Pedroia and Jarrod Saltalamacchia welcomed Aldean in a video, and he walked out of the dugout to the sound of songs from his new album and signed the wall inside the Green Monster scoreboard.

Aldean is one of country's top draws, but the stadium tour will move him into rare company. Currently, only Taylor Swift and Kenny Chesney have that kind of drawing power. But the hard-rocking singer has earned the status, selling

more than 1.9 million tickets on his yearlong "My Kinda Party" tour that wraps in Dallas on Oct. 27.

"You think about how long ago he started, you know, playing the small gigs, holes in the wall and honky-tonks. Aldean will be joined in Boston next July by Miranda Lambert, Jake Owen and Thomas Rhett. The area has proven to be receptive to country music.

Chesney and Swift have sold out Gillette Stadium, home of the New England Patriots, several times and Aldean has drawn enthusiastic crowds at smaller venues. □



This image released by FOX shows Jordana Spiro as Dr. Grace Devlin in a scene from "The Mob Doctor," airing Mondays at 9:00p.m. EST on Fox. "

Associated Press

Website tries to predict next TV shows will fail

DAVID BAUDER
AP Television Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — The website TV By the Numbers is making sport out of predicting which television series in the U.S. will survive or disappear, and the first weeks of a new TV season are particularly busy. Less than four weeks into the new season, one se-

ries — CBS' "Made in Jersey" — is already gone. The site thinks six other shows are endangered. Site co-founder Bill Gorman predicted "The Mob Doctor" on Fox will be next to disappear. Gorman and partner Robert Seidman started the site in 2007 to discuss television rankings. □

Review: 'Celebration of Harold Pinter' is an engaging homage



This image released by FOX shows Jordana Spiro as Dr. Grace Devlin in a scene from "The Mob Doctor," airing Mondays at 9:00p.m. EST on Fox. "

Associated Press

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sey" — is already gone. The site thinks six other shows are endangered. Site co-founder Bill Gorman predicted "The Mob Doctor" on Fox will be next to disappear. Gorman and partner Robert Seidman started the site in 2007 to discuss television rankings. They said people follow their favorite shows like they would sports teams and are increasingly

savvy about the business of entertainment.

Networks invest high hopes and a lot of money to make new series, but many — often most — quickly fail. Late October is a big decision-making time because networks must determine if they will pay for a full season's worth of shows.

The series the website warns are endangered are the CBS comedy "Partners," the ABC thriller "Last Resort" and creepy "666 Park Avenue" and the NBC comedies "Animal Practice" and "Up All Night."

The website and the networks don't have a contentious relationship. They wouldn't get the Nielsen ratings that their reporting is based on unless people at the networks slipped them the numbers.

The site has missed some calls. Fox's "House" had the numbers to return to TV, but the site didn't take into account increased costs of producing an older show or the desire of its actors to continue, Gorman said. □

'Emmanuelle' star Sylvia Kristel dies at age 60

MIKE CORDER
Associated Press

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — At the time, Sylvia Kristel was worried about starring in the 1974 erotic movie "Emmanuelle," but consoled herself with the thought that few people would see her sexually charged performance. That turned out to be wrong. "I thought, 'oh my goodness, this is not easy stuff,'" the Dutch actress once said in an interview. "I was nervous but then my boyfriend said, 'Who's going to watch this film? It will never pass censorship.'" It did pass the censors and went on to become a classic of the sexually liberated

1970s, propelling Kristel to international stardom. Kristel died of cancer in her sleep Wednesday at age 60, her management company announced Thursday. She had been fighting cancer for several years. Kristel told the Dutch newspaper De Volkskrant in 2005 that her former partner, Belgian author Hugo Claus, had persuaded her to star in "Emmanuelle." The erotic tale directed by Frenchman Just Jaeckin examined the sexual adventures of a man and his beautiful young wife in Thailand. "He said, 'Thailand, that's nice, we've never been there and anyway the film will never come out in the Netherlands so you

won't put your mother to shame,'" Kristel said. "In the end, 350 million people saw it worldwide." Kristel was born into a family that ran a hotel in the central Dutch city of Utrecht and had a religious upbringing. Her striking beauty defined her career, however, sending her into modeling and then to the steamy "Emmanuelle." She wasn't even in the casting call when Jaeckin visited the Netherlands looking for a leading lady. He said when he saw her elsewhere at the casting agency he knew immediately that Kristel was destined for the role. "When I saw her face, I was thunderstruck," he



In this May 22, 1975 file photo Dutch actress Sylvia Kristel, who played the role of "Emmanuelle", poses for the camera on her arrival at the Cannes Film Festival in France.

Associated Press

said in an interview with the French magazine Le Nouvel Observateur. Kristel went on to star in several sequels to "Emmanuelle," as well as in Hollywood movies including "Private Lessons" in 1981. Her agent described her as one of the Netherlands' biggest movie stars, with more than 50 international films to her name. Among them were many erotically tinted films, in-

cluding a 1981 adaptation — also directed by Jaeckin — of D.H. Lawrence's novel "Lady Chatterley's Lover" and "Mata Hari," four years later. But moving to Hollywood in her late 20s, she sank into a world of drink and drugs. "I wish I could have skipped that part of my life," she told the Dutch paper. She later returned to the Netherlands to live in Amsterdam, where she took up painting. □

Women And The Men Who Yell



GAIL COLLINS

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Maybe someday, the voters of 2012 will be telling their grandchildren where they were when Mitt Romney evoked Women in Binders.

By then, of course, they will have gotten a little fuzzy about the details. Maybe they'll tell the kids that, in the end, the whole election came down to the time Mitt Romney put Big Bird in a binder on the car roof.

President Barack Obama has had his ups and downs in this campaign, but Romney has a near-monopoly on interesting imagery. His most famous moment in Tuesday's debate came when he recounted how, when he came into office as governor, he was upset that all the applicants for top jobs were men.

"I went to a number of women's groups ... and I brought us whole binders full of women," he recounted proudly.

It was the anecdote that launched a thousand quips. Riffing on "Dirty Dancing," tweeters announced: "Nobody puts Baby in a binder."

Later, it turned out that the binders in question had actually been submitted to Romney by a Massachusetts group that had been formed to push for more women in important state government posts. Still, it was admirable that Romney followed through. At least for the first few years of his administration. The Boston Globe reported that by the time he left office, the proportion of women at the top had dwindled to below the level he found when he arrived. (When it comes to the ever-evolving identity of Mitt Romney, we tend to think of Massachusetts Mitt as the progressive, empathetic version. But there were actually several Bay State incarnations. The one who got elected governor wanted to ban assault rifles and close down polluting power plants and had emotional memories of a relative who died from an illegal abortion. About half-way through the term, that guy began to evaporate. He was replaced by a Presidential Prospect Mitt who opposed stem cell research, refused to cooperate with other governors on clean air initiatives and lost interest in the binder.) But about the debate. You may have noticed that both candi-

dates tried to score points with women. Obama pointed out that the first bill he signed into law was the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Act and that he'd fought to make sure all health insurance policies included coverage for contraception. Romney suggested there were "bureaucrats in Washington" who wanted to tell women whether they can use birth control, and he fiercely announced that if they tried, he would be very much opposed. Women enjoy a good pander as much as anybody else, and it was great to have the candidates tackle issues like equal pay and reproductive rights. Although it was a little weird that the two men vied for female favor by interrupting and barking at one another like a Worst Boyfriend.

If there are significant voter gender differences, one of them is the female aversion to yelling and squabbling. Maybe it's a coincidence, but the president's best moment of the debate was delivered on a stage set the day before by his highest-ranking female cabinet member.

The subject was Libya. The Romney camp has continually – and appallingly – tried to politicize the tragedy in Benghazi. But the administration's position on what had led to the attack that killed four Americans has been garbled. Its various explanations for why security wasn't better have sounded defensive.

On Monday, in an interview with CNN, Hillary Clinton simply said that she was responsible, as the secretary of state, for whatever had happened. Then during the debate Tuesday, the president picked up, and improved upon, the message. The administration, he said, was "going to find out exactly what happened, everybody will be held accountable, and I am ultimately responsible for what's taking place there. Because these are my folks, and I'm the one who has to greet those coffins when they come home, you know that I mean what I say."

The virtues of saying "the buck stops here" are so obvious that it's a wonder there isn't more of it. On Tuesday, Obama was definitely staking his claim on the buck. "Secretary Clinton has done an extraordinary job. But she works for me. I'm the president. And I'm always responsible," he said.

Americans have a fairly high tolerance for political fights about who's to blame for our problems. But when it comes to national security, we expect clarity and sobriety. To a man or woman. The president hit just the right note. Meanwhile, Clinton was flying back from Peru, trying to get home in time to watch the debate. On the plane, she brushed aside any invitations to expand on her statement or comment on critiques from the Romney camp. "I don't want to go there," she said. "Let's just everybody take a deep breath – figure out what we're going to do and how we're going to do it." □



Scott's Story And The Election



NICHOLAS D. KRISTOF

© 2012 New York Times

I wrote in my last column about my uninsured college roommate, Scott Androes, and his battle with Stage 4 prostate cancer – and a dysfunctional American health care system. I was taken aback by how many readers were savagely unsympathetic.

"Your friend made a foolish choice, and actions have consequences," one reader said in a Twitter message.

As my column noted, Scott had a midlife crisis and left his job in the pension industry to read books and play poker, surviving on part-time work (last year, he earned \$13,000). To save money, he skipped health insurance.

A year ago, he encountered difficulties urinating and didn't see a doctor in part because of the cost. By the time the prostate cancer was detected, it had spread to his bones.

"I blew it," Scott told me several times.

He repeatedly acknowledged that he should have bought insurance and should have seen a doctor as soon as his symptoms appeared.

Scott showed immense courage in telling his story. He worried that his legacy would be an unflatter-

ing article spotlighting his foolishness, yet he went ahead for two reasons. First, he said that readers might learn from his mistakes and call a doctor about that suspicious lump or mole. (If that's you, do it now!) Second, he said he hoped that his story would help readers see the need for universal health care, so that others wouldn't suffer as he has.

That's in part what this election is about. If President Barack Obama is re-elected, Obamacare will stay in place and health insurance will become close to universal in 2014. In contrast, Mitt Romney has promised if elected to work to repeal Obamacare – and any American who made a bad health care decision would continue to suffer.

To many of my readers, that's fine. "Not sure why I'm to feel guilty about your friend's problem," Terry from Oregon wrote on my blog. "I take care of myself and mine, and I am not responsible for anyone else."

Bruce wrote that many people in hospitals are there because of their own poor choices: "Smoking, obesity, drugs, alcohol, noncompliance with medical advice. Extreme age and debility, patients so sick, old, demented, weak, that if families had to pay one-tenth the cost of keeping the poor souls alive, they would instantly see that it was money wasted."

That harsh view is gaining ground, particularly on the right. Pew Research Center polling has found that the proportion of Republicans who agree that "it is the responsibility of the government to take care of people who can't take care of themselves" has slipped from 58 percent in 2007 to just 40 percent today.

Let me offer two counterarguments.

First, a civilized society compensates for the human propensity to screw up. That's why we have single-payer firefighters and police officers. That's why we require seat belts. When someone

who has been speeding gets in a car accident, the 911 operator doesn't sneer: "You were irresponsible, so figure out your own way to the hospital" – and hang up.

To err is human, but so is to forgive. Living in a community means being interconnected in myriad ways – including by empathy. To feel undiminished by the deaths of those around us isn't heroic Ayn Rand individualism. It's sociopathic. Compassion isn't a sign of weakness but of civilization.

My second argument is that if you object to Obamacare because you don't want to pay Scott's medical bills, you're a sucker. You're already paying those bills. Because Scott wasn't insured and didn't get basic preventive care, he accumulated \$550,000 in bills at Seattle's Swedish Medical Center, which treated him as a charity case. We're all paying for that.

Scott and I spoke on Sunday morning about whether his story might move some critics of health care reform. He was weakening and mused that he probably didn't have long.

A few hours later, Scott slipped into a coma. He died Monday morning.

We can't be certain that the cancer would have been found earlier, when it was more treatable, if Scott had been insured. But it's a reasonable bet. Researchers have estimated that one American dies every 20 minutes for lack of health insurance.

In other countries, I've covered massacres, wars, famines and genocides, and they're heart-rending because they're so unnecessary and arbitrary. Those massacred in the Darfur genocide in Sudan might be alive if they had been born in Britain.

That's how I feel about Scott. His death was also unnecessary and might not have occurred if he had lived in Britain or Canada or any other modern country where universal health care is standard and life expectancy is longer. □

Rachael Ray food truck for the dogs

ELIZABETH OLSON
 © 2012 New York Times

In a novel effort to woo pet owners to her Nutrish line of high-end dog food, television chef Rachael Ray is turning to something usually reserved for human gourmets: a food truck. Ray will begin handing out samples of the newest addition to her product line from a "Pup-Up Food Truck for Dogs" in Manhattan on Thursday. Depending on the response, she may take the truck to other cities to draw attention to pet adoptions and to shelters crowded with cats and other animals that people do not want or cannot keep – and to promote her dog food. Each year, Ray donates her portion of the proceeds from the brand – her total contributions are expected to reach \$4 million by the end of 2012 – to animal welfare organizations. She modeled Nutrish's charitable giving on that of Yum-o, a nonprofit organization she founded in 2006 to help children and their families learn about healthy food and cooking, which is financed by sales of cookbooks and other items. "We wanted to come up with a dedicated product, like we did for children," she said. "So there are no galas, no celebrity concerts, but a product that builds awareness of a problem and generates income." Even though bad economic times mean more animals are landing in shelters, people who can afford it are spending increasing amounts on better quality food for their pets. Nutrish, which made its debut in October 2008, is tapping into that trend. Manufactured by family-owned Ainsworth Pet Nutrition, in Meadville, Pa., Nutrish was the fastest-growing dry dog food brand in grocery stores for the 26 weeks ending Sept. 29. Sales were \$22.6 million, up 45.4 percent from the same period last year, according

to Ainsworth, and are expected to reach \$100 million by January 2013. The Rachael Ray Nutrish line includes dry and wet dog food and treats that contain no artificial preservatives, flavors or colors. Ray's truck will serve several varieties of her newest product, Nutrish Naturally Delish wet dog food, which comes in plastic tubs, including flavors like "Chicken Paw Pie" and "Chicken Muttballs." "Dogs will be served their choice on a dish, and they can go home with samples and a bottle of pup water," Ray said in an interview this week after the filming of her daytime syndicated talk show, "Rachael Ray." Samples have been an important factor in Nutrish's success, said Beth Nigro, a senior vice president at the marketing agency Engauge. Its Pittsburgh office has worked with Ainsworth for 30 years, and oversaw Ray's pet food introduction with a "Switch to Nutrish" campaign that has given away 1.5 million 6-ounce samples since January 2009.

"We found that 50 percent of the people who tried a free sample converted to the brand," Nigro said. The line includes Nutrish; Just 6 food and treats, which are made from only six ingredients; and Nutrish Healthy Weight. Ray, who also has a lifestyle magazine called "Every Day With Rachael Ray," best-selling cookbooks and a line of cookware, said her blend of advocacy and commercial success helped to support shelters and animal organizations across the country. "I've been an advocate for them all my life," said Ray, who dotes on her red-nose pit bull, Isaboo, and previously adopted another pit bull, Boo, who died about seven years ago. She said her mother cared for more than a dozen rescue cats. On average, pet owners spent \$254 on dog food and \$70 on treats last year, according to an American Pet Products Association survey. Some 46.3 million households owned a dog, and 38.9 million owned a cat. Most owners preferred premium dog food, a trend



The menu on television chef Rachel Ray's "Pup-Up Food Truck for Dogs" outside the Rachel Ray Studio in New York, Oct. 17, 2012. Samples of Ray's newest addition to her high-end dog food line Nutrish will be given out from the truck starting Thursday.

(Lauren DeCicca/The New York Times)



Television chef Rachel Ray's "Pup-Up Food Truck for Dogs" outside the Rachel Ray Studio in New York, Oct. 17, 2012. Samples of Ray's newest addition to her high-end dog food line Nutrish will be given out from the truck starting Thursday.

(Lauren DeCicca/The New York Times)

that has gained traction since the 2007 recalls of adulterated dog and cat food. "Nutrish is made to human standards. I've tried the kibble myself," Ray said, adding that real meat was the top ingredient in three varieties. Helping to increase awareness, she said, is the 2012 Rachael Ray \$100K Chal-

lenge. The goal of the initiative, begun in August with the American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, is for 50 animal shelters to save at least 300 more dogs and cats from August through October than they did during the same three-month period last year. The most successful shelter will win \$100,000, and other shelters can win lesser amounts. The average age of Nutrish customers is 45, and the average household income is \$135,000. But the brand is vying with established market giants like Purina for a share of the \$9.5 billion in annual sales of dry dog food in grocery stores and mass-market locations like Wal-Mart, according to 2011 figures from Nielsen ScanTrack. (Sales increased from \$7.1 billion in 2007.) Nutrish claimed a 2.8 percent share, \$22.6 million, of the \$823 million in dry dog food sales in grocery stores in the four weeks ending Sept. 29. Purina One had \$90.4 million in sales over the same period, up 4.4 percent from last year; Beneful had \$141.7 million, up 3.3 percent; and Iams had \$99.7 million, a 1.6 percent drop, according to Nielsen. □